

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FAITH IN DIPLOMACY

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit in the RECORD an opinion piece by Marshall Breger, a former alternate delegate of the U.S. to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, and currently a professor of law at the Columbus School of Law, the Catholic University of America. In it, he discusses the importance of religion in negotiating peace through diplomacy.

FAITH IN DIPLOMACY

(By Marshall Breger)

Whatever one's view of the Oslo peace process, it is remarkable that the 1993 signing ceremony on the White House lawn did not include benedictions by rabbis, imams, or priests. In an America where religious leaders open sessions of Congress, pray for the success of our armies, and even sometimes pray for fair winds and bless the fleet at yachting regattas, this is passing strange.

The absence of religious content speaks volumes about the assumptions that drive conventional diplomatic wisdom in Washington. Foreign policy professionals instinctively recoil at the notion that religion can or should play an important role in foreign policy. They see it as a "private matter," according to Tom Farr, former director of the State Department's office of international religious freedom, "properly beyond the bounds of policy analysis and action."

Far too many American diplomats and think-tank gurus continue to dismiss or, at best, ignore religion as "a tool of statecraft." They talk about promoting "civil society" but forget that in regions as diverse as the Middle East and South Asia, the largest and most powerful actors in civil society are religious. They assume that a "moderate" Muslim is a less religious Muslim, and that an "Islamist" who believes that Islam should play a role in politics must be in his or her heart a bomb-throwing extremist. They treat religion as a distraction to diplomacy and a threat to global stability.

Academic theories of modernization teach that as societies modernize they irrevocably grow more secular. But the truth is otherwise. Sociologist Peter Berger contends that religious sensibility does not wither in the modern world. Even the State Department, long a bastion of secularist thinking, is beginning to get the picture. In a powerful book written after she left the State Department, former secretary Madeleine Albright effectively offered a mea culpa for ignoring religion while she was in office. And Karen Hughes, former undersecretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs, said that President Bush wanted her "to reach out and meet with religious leaders—because faith is such an important part of life for so many Americans and so many people across the world."

How should we incorporate religion in our foreign policy? First, we must study it. You can't understand West Bank settlers without understanding the "Greater Israel" theology

of Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Kook and his disciples. Nor can you follow Shia politics without an appreciation of the role of the ashura—the commemoration of the death of the Prophet Mohammed's grandson in the 680 battle of Karbala—as the transformative event in Shia martyrology, or the oft-misunderstood role of the mahdi—the "hidden Imam" expected to bring justice and final judgment to the world—in Shia eschatology. Or how the "puritanism" of 18th-century theologian Mohammed Ibn Abd-al Wahab has affected the Salafi understanding of the Quran.

Only by understanding religion can we mobilize it as a force for reconciliation and as an ally in the search for peaceful solutions. No one can deny the injurious role religious fervor has had in foreign affairs—just think of the Thirty Years' War and Osama bin Laden. Nonetheless, we know of many examples of how religion can assist in the process of making peace. Consider the Community of Sant'Edigio, which has midwived cease-fires in conflict zones like Mozambique. The Vatican mediated the Argentina-Chile dispute over the Beagle Channel, and evangelical Christians have helped place international religious freedom, AIDS, and global poverty on the major powers' foreign policy agendas. Jewish groups, for their part, have led the campaign to end the violence in Darfur.

In 2002, Jewish, Muslim, and Christian leaders in the Middle East signed the Alexandria Declaration of the Religious Leaders of the Holy Land, committing themselves to the dignity of the individual, whatever his or her religion, and an end to bloodshed. That work is being carried on by groups like Mosaica and the Adam Institute and by other religious leaders such as Knesset member Rabbi Michael Melchior and Sheikh Abdullah Nimr Darwish, founder of the Islamic movement in Israel.

Religious leaders in Jerusalem have formed a Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land to promote not just interfaith dialogue, but also practical advances like access to and protection of holy sites; religious freedom; education for tolerance in mosques, synagogues, and churches; and support for a two-state solution that recognizes the dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians. This nascent enterprise includes religious leaders such as the Latin patriarch, chief rabbis, and Sheikh Taysir Al-Tamimi, head of the Sharia courts of Palestine.

These developments make clear that religious leaders can foster reconciliation in the Middle East and elsewhere. To succeed, any new peace initiative must encompass their efforts. Perhaps this time around we can avoid the religious deficit of so much previous American diplomacy.

Ari J. Livne, a senior at Lakeside School in Seattle, and Anisha Gulabani, a senior at Eastlake in Sammamish, Washington, were included in the list of 141 Presidential Scholars for 2008. Since its inception in 1964, the Presidential Scholars Program has honored more than 5,500 graduating high school seniors for academic excellence, artistic accomplishments, and civic contributions. In short, the young men and women named each year to the Presidential Scholars list represent the best and brightest young people in America—the leaders of tomorrow. Ari and Anisha are preparing themselves to lead this country into the future.

Ari joined the list of Presidential Scholars in the Arts in 2008 because of his accomplishments in the visual, literary and performing arts, as well as for his scholarship, leadership and public service. Initially, more than 7,000 young people from across the Nation applied for a spot on this prestigious list before it was narrowed down to just Ari and 19 other young talents. Ari holds a 3.7 cumulative GPA and will take his place among some of Lakeside's most outstanding graduates—including Microsoft's Bill Gates and former Washington Governor Booth Gardner—when he enters the next step in his educational journey in the fall. After turning down a scholarship offer from Julliard, Ari decided on Yale in order to pursue both his academic interests and incredible musical gifts simultaneously.

Anisha will graduate this spring from Eastlake High School with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She fills her school day with every Advanced Placement course available to her. She is a co-captain on the debate team, a member of the National Honor Society, a member of Mu Alpha Theta—Lakeside's Mathematics Honor Society—and a member of the Children's Hospital Guild in Seattle. I am told that initially she wanted to become a medical doctor. However, after her sister's leg was amputated, she decided to focus on bio-medical engineering with a special focus on prosthetic limb design at Harvard University.

Ari and Anisha showcased incredible talent at their respective high schools and clearly deserved the honor of being a part of the 2008 Presidential Scholars Program. I hope they continue on their promising course and emerge as leaders in whatever field they choose.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible talents of two young people who reside in the Eighth District of Washington State. Both students represent the promise of America and lead their peers inside and out of the classroom.

TRIBUTE TO OTANA JAKPOR

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an extraordinary young woman from Riverside, California. Otana Jakpor may only be 14 years old and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

a sophomore at Woodcrest Christian High School but she is already establishing herself as a promising scientist. Otana is the Region IX recipient of the 2007 President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) for a science project titled "Indoor Air Pollution: The Pulmonary Effects of Ozone-Generating Air Purifiers."

Young people from around the country are invited annually to participate in the PEYA program, which is aimed at encouraging individuals, school classes, summer camps, youth organizations and public interest groups to promote environmental awareness and encourage positive community involvement. One award is given for each of the Environmental Protection Agency's 10 regions. (EPA Region 9 includes California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii.) On April 17, 2008, President Bush presented the award to Otana at a White House Ceremony.

Ms. Jakpor decided to focus her project on indoor pollution after she read a Consumer Reports article titled "New Concerns about Ionizing Air Cleaners." The article reported that certain models of ionizing air cleaners emit high amounts of ozone, but it did not include any research data. Otana's findings indicated that indoor air purifiers, neck air purifiers and ionizers emit high amounts of ozone, one result was 15 times higher than the level of a State 3 smog alert.

Ms. Jakpor's findings were significant and on September 27, 2007, she presented them to the California Air Resources Board at a hearing on indoor air purifier pollution. The Board voted to adopt a regulation to limit ozone emissions from air purifiers to less than 0.050 parts per million, and now California is the first state in the nation to regulate ozone generators.

Recognition for her scientific achievements are not new to Otana, she has received the NAACP Los Angeles ACT-SO Competition Gold medal in Medicine; eight awards from the RIMS Inland Science and Engineering Fair for both her freshman and sophomore projects; and fourth place award in the Pharmacology/Toxicology Category in the Senior Division for her research on ozone at the California State Science Fair. She is a spokesperson for the American Lung Association and has appeared on the Discovery Channel.

Ms. Jakpor is first in her class at an excellent and competitive school and has a 4.33 Grade Point Average. It is an honor to recognize Otana for all her achievements at such a young age. I commend Ms. Jakpor for her hard work, commitment and outstanding educational achievements. I have no doubt she will continue to contribute to the science community and look forward to hearing about the incredible discoveries of Otana Jakpor in the years to come.

RECOGNITION FOR THE YOUGH COUGAR ROCKETRY TEAM

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Yough Cougar Rocketry team from Yough High School in Herminie, Pennsylvania. The Cougar

Rocketry was the only team from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania chosen to participate in the 2008 NASA Student Launch Initiative and is one of only eighteen teams selected nationally. The team was also selected in 2007.

NASA describes the Student Launch Initiative as a program which "involves middle and high school students in designing, building and testing reusable rockets with associated scientific payloads." The program allows students to demonstrate their design's proof-of-concept and allows them to apply previously abstract concepts to hands-on work. Each team works to build a vehicle that is to reach an altitude of one mile above ground level. The finale of each team's work ends with a launch at Marshall Space Flight Center.

Madam Speaker, the members of the Yough Cougar Rocketry team, whom I would like to personally recognize, include Ms. Stephanie Abbott, Ms. Amy Bickerstaff, Ms. Alicia Bowser, Mr. Josh Sarosinski, and Ms. Ashley Wiley. Mr. Donald Gilbert, Jr. is the team's teacher and advisor and Mr. Eric Haberman is the team's mentor from Westinghouse Corporation. I commend them all for their tremendous work.

SUPPORTING FUNDING TO REDUCE THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, every minute a woman somewhere in the world dies of pregnancy-related causes. This staggering fact is not a failure of science but rather a failure of conscience. The United States possesses the medical knowledge necessary to drastically reduce the number of women killed during pregnancy each year. What we lack is a commitment by our Government to make certain that medical resources are readily available to women throughout the world.

The United States can and most do more. To demonstrate just how attainable this goal is, I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to an interesting and inspiring piece published in *The Washington Post* on Sunday, May 11, that highlights the efforts of two remarkable individuals to address maternal mortality rates in Haiti. Working closely with the Haitian government, Paul Farmer, Ophelia Dahl, and their nonprofit organization Partners in Health, have succeeded in reducing the maternal mortality rate in Haiti to less than half what it was a quarter-century ago. I hope that this piece will not only serve as a reminder of the tremendous opportunity we have to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of pregnant women all over the world.

KEEPING NEW MOTHERS ALIVE—IN HAITI AND RWANDA, REDUCING TRAGEDY IN CHILDBIRTH

(By Paul Farmer and Ophelia Dahl)

"Obscene" is still the word that comes to mind when we think of maternal mortality—and it has been almost 25 years since we first witnessed death in childbirth. In 1983, as students in one of central Haiti's fetid clinics, we prepared to celebrate a birth. Although we'd just met the young woman about to be-

come a mother, her desperate expression as she began to hemorrhage haunts us still. National statistics could have predicted the outcome: A 1985 survey pegged Haitian maternal mortality at 1,400 deaths per 100,000 live births. By comparison, maternal mortality in the United States last year was 14 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Worldwide, 500,000 women die in childbirth every year; more than 90 percent live in Africa or Asia, and almost all are poor by any standard. Obscene though it is, death during childbirth isn't the end of the story. In the world's poorest areas, many orphaned children wind up destitute and on the streets within a few years of their mothers' deaths, sometimes resorting to desperate or criminal measures for food, shelter, clothes or school fees.

One of the 12 Millennium Development Goals is to reduce maternal mortality 75 percent by the year 2015. But we are moving too slowly to meet this goal, the United Nations says.

Today, the maternal mortality rate in Haiti is less than half what it was a quarter-century ago. Across the broad swath of central Haiti where we work, we estimate the number to be well below 100 deaths per 100,000 live births—not good enough but a vast improvement, most of it occurring in the past decade. Change came largely for three reasons.

First, our nonprofit organization, Partners in Health, has worked closely with the Haitian Ministry of Health to strengthen public health infrastructure. We have rebuilt, equipped, staffed and stocked hospitals and clinics; trained nurse-midwives and other personnel, including more than a thousand community health workers; linked villages and health centers to district hospitals by modern telecommunications and ambulance service; and established modern surgical services for obstetrical emergencies.

Second, we have broken the rule that high-quality health services are a privilege rationed by ability to pay, not a right. The case was made first for affordable medicines. Now it is being made for emergency Caesarean sections—an essential tool to reduce maternal mortality. Faced with evidence that maternal mortality was greater where fees were higher, the district health commissioner for central Haiti announced last August that all prenatal care and emergency obstetrical services would henceforth be available free to all patients. He was later echoed by Haitian President René Préval.

Third, we have linked prenatal and obstetric care to an all-out effort to improve access to primary health care. The presence of functional, accessible public clinics and hospitals restores faith in the health system, motivates people to seek care before they are critically ill and allows for preventive interventions such as prenatal care and family planning. Consider Rwanda, another country where we work, which is rising rapidly from its ashes scarcely a dozen years after an appalling genocide. Rwandan maternal mortality rates in 1995, the year after the genocide, are unknown. But they are sure to have exceeded the 1,800 deaths per 100,000 live births reported that year in relatively peaceful Malawi. The situation has improved dramatically since then.

By helping to train and, importantly, pay community health workers, the Rwandan Ministry of Health is taking steps to link rural villages to health centers with the capacity to make routine labor safe. Rwanda is also seeking to make family planning available to citizens and to increase access to preventive and primary care through basic health insurance. Maternal mortality has dropped from more than 1,000 deaths per 100,000 live births between 1995 and 2000 to

less than 600 today—still terrible but well below the average (940) reported for sub-Saharan Africa.

At the government's invitation, Partners in Health launched efforts to strengthen AIDS treatment and primary health services in one region of rural Rwanda in 2005. Mindful of the lessons learned during two decades of work in rural Haiti—and of that young Haitian woman whom we watched turn abruptly from the anticipation of new life to a confrontation with death—we have made reducing maternal mortality and improving women's health top priorities. And we have welcomed the opportunity to support Rwanda's commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty and disease by including health care and education (especially for girls) in its vision of the future. It's probably no coincidence that Rwanda also boasts the world's highest percentage of women in parliament.

IN SUPPORT OF H. CON. RES. 322—
RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 322, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, marks a day when Theodor Herzl's prophetic words became reality: "If you will it, it is no dream."

Since its founding on May 14, 1948, the modern State of Israel has established itself as a dynamic and democratic nation with a thriving economy, a pluralistic political system, and a vibrant cultural and intellectual center. The Israeli people have contributed greatly as scholars, innovators, educators, and more, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize their accomplishments as well as those of Israel.

Israel has been a vital ally of the United States since the beginning of its existence, sharing democratic values, friendship, and respect and enjoying a strategic partnership. America and Israel shall remain close friends for years to come, particularly as Israel continues to seek peace with her neighbors. H. Con. Res. 322 reaffirms these bonds of friendship and cooperation and expresses a commitment to strengthen these bonds.

On the Jewish calendar, Israel's Independence Day falls on the 5th of Iyar, corresponding this year with May 8, 2008. This day is a joyous time to reflect with pride on the work of the men and women who knew that one day the dream of the State of Israel would become a reality.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 322 and wish to extend warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate this 60th year of Israel's independence. I wish them peace and prosperity in the years to come, kein yehi ratzon.

IN MEMORY OF TOM ED HAYS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Tom Ed Hays of Hope, Arkansas, who passed away May 7, 2008, at the age of 73.

I will forever remember Tom Ed Hays as a good friend, a keen businessman and someone who cared deeply about improving the quality of life in southwest Arkansas. As a natural born leader, he excelled at every task he took on and was an inspiration to all of us who knew him.

Tom Ed Hays was born and raised in Arkansas, and was always proud to call Arkansas his home. After beginning his banking career in Texas, he returned home to Hope to join his father and uncle in the family-owned bank, First National Bank of Hope. His ambition and dedication helped him rise from cashier to president and CEO of the bank, a role which he held until the time of his passing. Under his guidance and leadership, the bank underwent significant expansion and spread to communities throughout southwest Arkansas.

While Tom Ed Hays' economic development efforts had a tremendous impact on the region and will never be forgotten, his gentlemanly nature is what everyone will talk about for years to come. The numerous accolades and awards he received over the years are a testament to his deep conviction of community service and civic responsibility.

Tom Ed Hays will be remembered for his outstanding service to Hempstead County, southwest Arkansas, and to the entire State of Arkansas. Above all, he will be sorely missed as a friend. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Betty Jo Fite Hays; his three sons, Thomas Hays III of Cambridge, England, Daniel Fite Hays of Hope, and John Julian Hays of Hope; his sister, Nancy Hays Gottwald of Richmond, Virginia; and to his eight grandchildren and countless friends. Tom Ed Hays will be greatly missed and I am truly saddened by this loss.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF FALLEN
HERO'S DEATH—IN HONOR OF
ARMY SPECIALIST ARMER NATHAN
BURKART

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a poem penned by Albert Caswell of The United States Capitol Guide Service, in honor of a real American hero, Army Specialist Armer Nathan Burkart, on the eve of the 2nd anniversary of his gallant life and most tragic death in Baghdad, Iraq, on May 11, 2006. A Rockville native who gave that last full measure for all of us. Remember him this coming Memorial Day.

ARMER ALL

Armer All . . .
Strength in honor, an American Hero who
heard the call!
Who so marched off to war like all of his fine
forefathers have done so before!

A man of character, and faith . . .

A brave heart, who but to his country 'tis of
thee so gave and gave!

But All . . . But, his fine life . . . he who so
sacrificed, showing us all how to be-
have!

A soul,
One's being, so deep down inside one's heart
which holds!

The Armer, The Mantle of Gold . . . to go
and do, to shine in the light of a hero's
glow!

To march forward, with clenched fists!
To stare straight into that the darkest of all
faces, that of death!

To give all until none lies left, to the future
. . . our most precious sons and daugh-
ters bless!

A Maryland Man,

Who so showed us all what a warm heart of
Armer and faith so can!

But, only the very few . . . can and have so
done, as Heaven won . . . our fine son
. . . Armer you!

A leader of men,

An Angel on Earth, who our Lord would so
send!

And now, as your short time is done . . . to
Heaven rise my son . . . as your new
battle begins!

As an Angel in the Army of our Lord,
As on Earth you brought your light, from
heaven now you continue the fight . . .
evermore!

For yours, your life Burkart . . . was but our
Lord's work of art . . . for what you so
stood for!

Armer . . . You!

You, so lived and died for What Is Real . . .
For What Is True!

Can you but hear our tears? All for you, and
your fine life . . . and all of your lost
years!

ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, in May, we honor Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a celebration of the culture and contributions of millions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Their diverse talents have contributed to communities all across our Nation.

The Eighth District of Washington has a vibrant Asian Pacific community. Nearly 100,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders reside in my district, contributing to their individual communities through business, education, volunteerism and public service, just to name a few. I am also very aware of the bravery and patriotism many in the Asian and Pacific Islander community have shown by serving honorably in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other dangerous places.

The Asian Pacific American community is growing in my district and our Nation at large. I know, as the influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders grow, the American people will more fully understand—and respect—the many contributions they have made to our communities and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA SCHNEIDER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Cynthia Schneider is one of these individuals. On May 17, 2008, Cynthia will be recognized at the Corona-Norco Family YMCA's 13th Anniversary Distinguished Service Awards Dinner and will receive the YMCA Distinguished Service Award.

Cynthia is senior vice president, director of marketing for American Security Bank, headquartered in Santa Ana, California. She was instrumental in the business case that convinced the bank to open its loan and marketing administration offices and build a new branch office in Corona. For more than 30 years, Cynthia has managed the marketing functions of various Southern California financial institutions, as an officer and as a private consultant. She specializes in improving financial performance through consultative sales training and gaining corporate visibility through strategic marketing and public relations programs.

Cynthia has worked in Corona for 10 years and has been a resident for 8. During that time she has become an active community volunteer. She is a longstanding member of the Corona Chamber of Commerce; has served on their board for 7 years and was chairman of the board in 2006. She currently chairs and is a contributing writer for the Chamber's Corona Business Monthly magazine and heads their legislative action committee. She is the founder and organizer of the Chamber Missions to China and has run the program for 3 consecutive years. Cynthia was recognized by Soroptimist International in 2006 as a Woman of Distinction for her international contributions.

Cynthia was also instrumental in the grassroots campaign by the Corona Chamber of Commerce to help the homeless. The campaign inspired community members to contribute \$100,000 during a 6-week period in 2006 to keep the doors of the homeless shelter open over the holidays. Cynthia has also served for 6 years on the board of directors for the Foundation for Community and Family Healthy, is currently president of the Circle City Rotary, and proudly serves on the board of the Corona-Norco YMCA.

Cynthia's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call Cynthia a fellow community member, American and friend. I salute her and thank her for her service as she receives the prestigious YMCA Distinguished Service Award.

TRIBUTE TO MR. L. ROBERT KIMBALL

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of L. Robert Kimball & Associates to recognize the service and work of L. Robert Kimball, founder and chairman of the board. As a military veteran and respected businessman, Mr. Kimball is the epitome of the American entrepreneur. His original two-person civil engineering company, founded in 1953, has grown to a full-service architecture, engineering, technology, and consulting firm of over 600 staff serving a wide variety of clients, including the Federal Government.

Mr. Kimball served as a U.S. Army Air Corps Captain in World War II and as a Major in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Korean conflict. Among his World War II military decorations are the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the French Croix de Guerre. He is also a recipient of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award.

Following his military service, Mr. Kimball returned to his hometown of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, and established the company known as "L. Robert Kimball, Civil Engineer." In the 1960s, the firm began providing service to branches of the United States military. Today, Kimball provides professional services to, among others, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Those services include cutting-edge building, innovative modeling, laser terrain scanning, and telecommunication system modernization.

The firm's reputation for consistent delivery of high-caliber services is a direct result of the discipline and integrity that L. Robert Kimball instilled throughout the company. The example he sets of leadership and teamwork can be traced back to his military service to the United States of America as a lead navigator for the 100th Bomb Group, where he set the flight course. It was a matter of life and death to make the right decisions and to work as a team to look out for the others in the squadron. Those principles apply to the course he sets for staff. He encourages every employee to be a good professional and a good citizen.

With that, Madam Speaker, I recognize and congratulate Mr. L. Robert Kimball.

IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S SECOND HARVEST

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's Second Harvest, which is being presented with this year's Ernest P. Bicknell Disaster Response Excellence Award from the American Red Cross.

America's Second Harvest, based in Chicago, is the Nation's largest charitable hunger-

relief organization. I have long been an admirer of its work in Illinois, where 8 America's Second Harvest food banks help provide food to 900,000 people who are struggling with rising fuel, health care, and food costs. Nationwide, America's Second Harvest has a network of more than 200 member food banks and food-rescue organizations that serves all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The America's Second Harvest Network secures and distributes more than 2 billion pounds of donated food and grocery products annually. The Network supports approximately 63,000 local charitable agencies operating more than 70,000 programs including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, afterschool programs, and community kitchens. Each year, the America's Second Harvest Network provides food assistance to more than 25 million low-income hungry people in the United States, including more than 9 million children and nearly 3 million seniors.

America's Second Harvest is being honored by the Red Cross because it continues to be instrumental in improving preparedness and the critical delivery of disaster relief to individuals and communities across the country. America's Second Harvest has partnered with the American Red Cross in disaster response through its leadership with the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Mass Care Committee. It has also worked to establish standards of care for victims of disaster, utilizing its proven expertise in providing 2 billion pounds of food and grocery products to our Nation's hungry each year. Unfortunately, the news of the devastating cyclone in Myanmar, and the catastrophic earthquakes that stole thousands of lives in China this week, highlight just how critical disaster relief plans are.

The Red Cross's Disaster Response Excellence Award is named in honor of Ernest P. Bicknell, who was the Red Cross National Director from 1909 to 1917 after having served as, fittingly, the General Superintendent of the Chicago Bureau of Charities. Today, America's Second Harvest is at the forefront of charitable work, both in Chicago and nationwide. As a proud representative of the City of Chicago, I am honored to recognize their incredible work.

CONGRATULATING RICCARDO MUTI AS NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR OF CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maestro Riccardo Muti on being named the next music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). Maestro Muti will become the 10th music director to take the baton in that capacity for the CSO.

Maestro Muti will succeed Daniel Barenboim, who held the position of music director at the CSO for fifteen years when he left in 2006.

I am proud that Chicago will have a world-class maestro to follow in the footsteps of legends like Sir Georg Solti as music director.

Maestro Muti's background is impressive and commands immense respect in the musical community. He has conducted many important orchestras around the world, including the New York Philharmonic, the Orchestre National de France, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, and more.

Maestro Muti already has some familiarity with our City's outstanding orchestra, having conducted the CSO at Ravinia in 1973 and returning to Symphony Center in 1975 as well as three decades later in 2007. When he begins his tenure as music director in 2010, I know that he and the CSO will continue to excel in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Riccardo Muti in his new position as music director at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and wish him the best of luck as Chicago's new maestro.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDDIE
HARRISON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eddie Harrison of Waldron, Arkansas, and to recognize his 45 years of dedication and commitment in the classroom at Waldron High School as he embarks on his retirement from teaching.

I commend Mr. Eddie Harrison for his efforts and accomplishments over the years and applaud his hard work and devotion to improving the quality of education for countless students at Waldron High School. As a son of public school educators, I believe the most important component of a child's education is having a quality teacher like Mr. Harrison in the classroom.

Mr. Harrison's school day did not start and end with a bell, instead it began with early morning meetings and concluded when the last buzzer sounded at a sporting event. He dedicated his time to multiple organizations and was always the first to volunteer for projects at hand.

When Mr. Harrison is not in the classroom or on the campus of Waldron High School, he can be found at the Waldron First Baptist Church where he serves as Deacon and is actively involved in his church's ministry. He is also a proud uncle, whose devotion to his family is second to none.

Eddie Harrison's presence in the classroom will be greatly missed by the students, faculty and staff of Waldron High School, where his legacy of excellence will forever be remembered. I know that his heart will never drift far from Waldron, and that he will continue to be a fixture in the community and a role model for all that have the opportunity to know him.

I have always believed that there is no greater form of public service than that performed by those who teach our children. I congratulate Eddie Harrison on a job well done for 45 years of teaching at Waldron High School. I wish him a successful future of happiness and fulfillment in his next endeavor, and am proud to commend his selfless work to help shape a new generation of innovators.

THE DAILY 45: PACOIMA
SHOOTINGS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. From coast to coast, the stories ring familiar.

In Los Angeles, police said this morning that they are investigating two separate shootings in Pacoima that left two men dead. One man, whose name has not been released, suffered gunshot wounds to his head and body. He was taken to a local hospital where he later died. In a separate incident, in the same area, another man was fatally wounded in an apparent drive-by shooting around 3 p.m. Tuesday. These daily shootings must end.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "Enough is enough, stop the killing!"

RECOGNIZING REALTORS AND
THEIR ROLE IN THE AMERICAN
DREAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize America's realtors. I would like to specifically recognize fifteen realtors, who are in Washington, D.C. today, for their commitment to the neighborhoods and communities across North Texas, the place I am proud to call home. I would also like to welcome these fellow Texans to our Nation's capital city.

Realtors are a vital part of the American way of life. They help to provide the citizens of the United States with one of the most basic American Dreams: the joy of home ownership. I remember when I was looking to buy my first home, I was unsure about what I could expect or what processes I needed to take. Realtors helped me through the process and I am very grateful for the kindness and generosity they demonstrated.

I would like to recognize the fifteen realtors from my district who are in Washington, D.C. right now: with the Greater Lewisville Association of REALTORS, Inc., Connie Niedzwiecki, Cathy Smith, and Lynda Bennett; with the North Texas Real Estate Information Services, Inc., Mikie Doyle; with the Greater Denton/Wise County Association of REALTORS, Inc., Chris Rosprim, Myra Oliver, Mary O'Conner, Kaki Lybbert, and Kara Phelps; with the Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS, Inc., Ken Jones, Dan Odom and Colleen Odom; and with the MetroTex Association of REALTORS, Inc., Eloise Eriksson, Judy Jones and Barbara Alsworth.

Madam Speaker, I am very grateful for the hard work of these aforementioned professionals and the great service they provide to their local communities. Their energy, skills and commitment have made North Texas a better place to live and I am proud to have them here today.

HONORING DR. ODETE AMARELO
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful Massachusetts resident, Dr. Odete Amarelo, on the occasion of her retirement.

Maria Odete Cordeiro Morgado Amarelo was born in Arrifes, Rua da Saude, in the Azores. After a visit from Cardinal Humberto de Sousa Medeiros that served as a great inspiration, her family made the decision to make a new life in the United States.

Dr. Odete used her great energy, drive and passion to help others. She enrolled in a night program at Bristol Community College, eventually transferring to the University of Massachusetts. Two years later, she was hired by the Fall River School Department as a Teacher Assistant in the bilingual program. She later earned a BA from the University of Boston, a Master's Degree from Lesley College and a Doctorate Degree in Literacy from the Union Institute.

Madam Speaker, that final degree I mentioned, a Doctorate in Literacy, says it all. Dr. Odete believes that education based upon literacy is a fundamental right. This has been her life's work, and her life's passion. As Dr. Odete has said, "literacy can't exist in an isolated form, it's a process that is a part of our continued development."

Currently, Dr. Odete serves as the School/Parent coordinator for the Magnet Program in the Fall River Schools.

I am proud to rise today in honoring Dr. Odete Amarelo and to thank her for her extraordinary work on behalf of the people of Fall River. Dr. Odete once said, "it's not sufficient to say that we care, but to act and identify what is not right." Dr. Odete has been acting and identifying—and fixing—what is not right for many, many years. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in paying tribute to this remarkable woman.

HONORING WOODCLIFF LAKE
D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Woodcliff Lake Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of Dorchester School. The young people participating in this important program have made a commitment to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence. They have done this with the support of their principal, John Fierro, Chief of Police Anthony Jannicelli and D.A.R.E. officers Chad Malloy and James Foley.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. This program allows children to defeat the

negative cultural influences that they are challenged with daily by opening the lines of communication between law enforcement and youth and empowering them with confidence and courage to say no to drugs.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program in Woodcliff Lake, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Christopher Acciardi, Nicole Alberta, Naseeb Ally, Max Aronson, Maryanna Arundel, Noah Bardach, Albert Barragan, Alexis Bernstein, Zachary Bernstein, Christopher Blake, Nicholas Bonnett, Alexandra Castiel, Marc Castrillon, Karen Choi, Ellen Drennan, Matthew Evans, Mackenzie Evans, Brandon Fazal, Rachel Fisher, Brandon Friedman, Keith Gliksman, Michael Goldstein, Ian Groh, Erica Grunfeld, Alexandria Guo, Karin Hadadan, Ashley Hahn, John Henrich, Gianna Hronich, Ari Jigarjian, Brigitte Josephson, Avantika Joshi, Senyoung Kim, Chelsea Kirnum, Kathryn Klecanda, Katarina Kokkosis, Saniya Kumar, Morgan Landman, Justin Lane, Adam Lefkowitz, Brett Levine, Hanna Levy, Sophia Logothetis, Tomasso Lombardi, Chloe Mann, Brian Marolda, Samantha McGovern, Kayla McGraw, Alexander Meleniak, Celine Mileham, Vernice Miller, Nicole Miller, Daniel Miller, Cole Moran, Melissa Nachbaur, Vicky Patel, Thomas Patire, Jordan Perez, Noah Personette, Alex Pettie, Lianna Port, Austin Rahmin, Richard Rebori, Peter Rubenstein, Rachel Samitt, Mihir Sangoi, Maximilian Sarbu, Devin Sargent, Maya Scharf, Alexa Schecter, Connor Schultz, Kyle Schultz, Shunpei Seki, Isabel Sella, Julia Shin, Jacqueline Skene, Alana Smolinsky, W. Maxwell Song, Margo Spector, Constantine Stavrianidis, Alexander Todfield, Sere Tonuzi, Natalia Torres, Christopher Toto, David VanPelt, Apoorva Vasireddy, Harrison Weinfeld, Noah Winston, Rachel Yannelli, Vincent Yannelli, Josephine Yao, Christopher Zariello.

HONORING JOHN ROGERS' DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Rogers of Rockland, Massachusetts, and to recognize his long and distinguished career in public service.

John has devoted his life to educating young people most notably as a teacher and then during his twenty-three-year tenure as Superintendent of the Rockland Public Schools. In addition, he has worked to improve the quality of life for people of all ages in Rockland through his service as a Selectman and as President of the Rockland Chamber of Commerce. In recent years, he has played an instrumental role in the redevelopment of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station by representing the people of Rockland on the Board of Directors of the South Shore Tri-Town Development Corporation.

While serving on the Tri-Town board, he helped shape and build consensus on a rede-

velopment master plan that will serve as an engine of economic growth in the surrounding communities. The plan has won accolades from local and national groups as a "smart growth" initiative and a model for future sustainable development projects throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

John will continue his lifelong service to his community as a newly elected member of the Rockland Housing Authority, and as he retires from his position on the Tri-Town Board, I want to him to know that we are forever grateful for all that he has done. We will always appreciate his unwavering leadership, his vision and his tireless commitment to advancing the quality of life for the people of Rockland and the greater South Shore area.

On behalf of a grateful constituency, I rise today to thank John Rogers for all that he has done for our community, and to wish him success in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. COUTS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. John Coutts is one of these individuals. On May 17, 2008, John will be recognized at the Corona-Norco Family YMCA's 13th Anniversary Distinguished Service Awards Dinner and will receive the YMCA Distinguished Service Award.

John Coutts is President of Coutts Heating and Cooling, Inc., a mechanical contracting company that has operated in Corona for thirty years. Cents Heating and Cooling, established in 1978, owes its long-standing success to its simple, yet driving business philosophy: honesty, integrity, and putting the best interest of the customer first. Coutts Heating and Cooling, Inc. is a Union Contractor providing heating, ventilating and air-conditioning services in addition to mechanical piping and energy management controls to commercial, industrial, medical and educational facilities.

The story of Coutts Heating and Cooling is a small business success story that began with a team of four family members and a determination to succeed. From their entrepreneurial beginnings, the business has evolved into a major corporation, employing 200 people. A major component of the growth of Coutts Heating and Cooling has been their unwavering commitment to family-owned values.

John's life has been woven into the fabric of the City of Corona for more than three decades. He and his wife, Carolyn, raised and educated two daughters in Corona. For many years both Carolyn and John were active in booster and fundraising activities for cheerleading and athletics, spending countless hours supporting their daughters' endeavors. As their children grew into their own lives,

John's contributions to the community evolved from school and athletic events into community causes.

John currently sits on the Board of the Foundation for Community and Family Healthy were he has been instrumental in spearheading and promoting an annual giving program that will provide long-term funding for the Foundation's countless outreach programs. As a business owner, not only has John been extremely active in industry and trade associations at a local and state level, he has also been a member and active supporter of the Corona Chamber of Commerce. For the past eight months, John has shared his professional expertise as a member of a selectively chosen group of business owners who comprise the Chamber's Legislative Action Committee—monitoring and lobbying to pass legislation that will have a positive impact on Corona businesses. John and Carolyn also support numerous philanthropic causes and give generously to support community programs funded by non-profit agencies.

John's tireless passion for the high quality of his business and community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call John a fellow community member, American and friend. I salute him and thank him for his service as he receives the prestigious YMCA Distinguished Service Award.

CONGRATULATING GRINNELL COLLEGE MEN'S TENNIS TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 1, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by head coach Andy Hamilton and the Grinnell College men's tennis team this spring. In early May the Pioneers won their first ever NCAA tournament match and their 5th consecutive Midwest Conference title. Grinnell now has an 11th conference championship trophy to add to their case!

I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Grinnell men's tennis team, both on and off the court. Three Grinnell College tennis players—Dan LaFountaine, Brij Patnaik, and Pete De Kock—have worked for me and served the people of Iowa's First District. And countless other Grinnellians, including my Legislative Director Mike Goodman, are working in public life to build a stronger, more just Nation.

Arthur Ashe—the great American public intellectual, civil rights advocate, and tennis player—said, "From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life." Grinnell faculty, coaches, students, and alumni understand this truth. The Grinnell men's tennis team had a great season in 2008, and these student athletes are poised to give great things to our communities in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE MICHAEL D. DROMGOOLE, DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Michael D. Dromgoole.

Prior to joining the DEA, Michael began his law enforcement career with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a Highway Patrol Trooper in 1973. In 1980, he began his DEA career as a Special Agent and completed assignments in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, California before coming to Texas. His work ethic and dedication led to multiple promotions and in October 1998, he was reassigned as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge in the Dallas Field Division. After twenty-eight years of service with the DEA, Michael will be retiring this year.

The Dallas area has greatly benefited from his vision and leadership. He foresaw a safer and better community and took every effort to do make this goal a reality. He helped enhance the cooperation between the DEA and local and state agencies, making attempts to combat drug trafficking and the enforcement of controlled substance laws more successful. Michael leaves a legacy of civic duty that will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for his exemplary service to this great Nation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. DON W. KASSING, PRESIDENT OF SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of California's most successful university presidents, Mr. Don W. Kassing. Don will be retiring this year and I would like to highlight some of the significant contributions he has made, not only to the university, but also to the surrounding community. It is with mixed emotions that I say farewell to Don—I am saddened to see him go, but do so with tremendous pride and respect for the accomplishments he has made to my alma mater, San Jose State University.

In August of 2004, following the unexpected resignation of his predecessor, Don leapt into action as the newly appointed interim president of San Jose State University. Accepting this position just before the start of the school year, Don moved quickly to reassure an apprehensive campus that all focus would remain on the important business of starting the fall semester. His confidence in the collective capabilities of the San Jose State University faculty and staff, his generous and collegial management and leadership style, and the trust and respect that he had garnered during

his 11 years of service as San Jose State University's vice president for administration and finance quickly created a sense of stability.

One of Don's first actions as president was to galvanize the campus to organize its first-ever campuswide strategic planning process. This thorough planning involved a mobilization of all campus units and resulted in a vibrant "Vision 2010." San Jose State University is now at the end of two full cycles of implementation.

Leading by example, Don repeatedly made thoughtful, public stands on tough issues. He strongly supported a student initiative to honor two San Jose State athletes and civil rights icons, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, medal winners of the 1968 Olympics, who chose a non-violent protest during the medals ceremony to bring attention to the American civil rights movement. The groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies for the campus sculpture in 2007 gave the University at long last the opportunity to appropriately honor and embrace the athletes and their actions.

Building upon the successful partnership with the city of San Jose to develop the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, Don was instrumental in forging the Beyond Martin Luther King collaborative, which initiated a broader commitment and conversation with city and San Jose State University leadership staff and community stakeholders. Since 2004, key partnership projects have sparked neighborhood development, affordable housing-to-workforce enhancement and co-production of major events. This successful collaborative effort serves as a model of how a positive, symbiotic relationship between a lively campus and a vibrant downtown can be used to enhance the stature of both a city and its university.

This year, Don led the campus in a decision to suspend blood drives, citing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's lifetime blood donor deferral affecting gay men as being in violation of the university's nondiscrimination policy. The public stand taken by SJSU has re-ignited debate across the country about FDA's policy. It is my hope that the questions raised by Don's actions will lead to a thorough, thoughtful, and scientifically sound reexamination of FDA policy.

Mr. Kassing's successes can best be summed up in the words of its accrediting body. In a letter last July, Western Association of Schools and Colleges Executive Director Ralph Wolff said: "The Commission would like to extend its commendation to the San Jose State University community on the truly remarkable distance it has traveled since fall 2004. The team report notes 'significant progress' in assessment of student learning and enrollment management; the positive influence of recent appointments at the senior level; an operational strategic plan; innovative new programs for student success; and above all, dramatic changes in culture, energy and focus on campus."

Madam Speaker, I will miss seeing my friend, Don Kassing, in San Jose, but wish him and his spouse, Amy, only the best as they embark on the next phase of their journey in Arizona.

CONGRATULATING MAJORS DAVID AND PAT WAITE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR RETIREMENT FROM THE SALVATION ARMY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished careers of Majors David and Pat Waite, on the occasion of their retirement from the Salvation Army.

With careers spanning over 40 years, the Waites' service has carried them across the Southeast, to Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Texas, and Alabama. Their ministry also carried them to South America, where they served in Brazil for three years.

Majors David and Pat met as undergraduates while attending Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. David graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology, and Pat graduated with a degree in elementary education. They married in 1966 while David was in seminary school, and in 1969, David graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary with a master's of divinity degree.

In 1969, David and Pat entered Officers' Training School. David spent much of this first year of training attending Emory University's Candler School of Theology. As Cadet-Lieutenants, the Waites spent their second year of training in St. Petersburg, Florida, and in 1971, David and Pat were commissioned as officers.

The Waites served in various locations throughout Florida, including Fort Pierce, Jacksonville, Ocala, and Clearwater, before being assigned to the College for Officers' Training in Atlanta, Georgia, where they would stay for three years. Majors David and Pat then went on to serve as corps officers at the Atlanta Temple Corps.

From Atlanta, David and Pat were assigned to Divisional Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. Here, David served as the divisional secretary and Pat served as assistant home league secretary. In 1995, the Waites moved to Austin, Texas, where David was appointed territorial candidates secretary and associate candidates secretary.

In 1997, David was named education secretary. His primary responsibility in this capacity was to transition the Education Department from Territorial Headquarters to the Evangeline Booth College. David was also responsible for opening the School for Continuing Education where he served as assistant principal. During their assignment in Austin, Pat opened the Continuing Education Center and served as its director. She also laid the ground work for the new continuing education programs and the degree completion program.

The Waites received their orders assigning them to Brazil in 1999. In Brazil, David served as associate public relations secretary, public relations secretary, and personnel secretary for the Brazil territory. Pat served as the territorial home league secretary and later, as assistant to the personnel secretary.

The Waites arrived in Mobile in 2002 where David was named area commander and Pat was named coordinator for women's activities. After six years of service in Mobile, the Waites are retiring to San Antonio, Florida, where many fellow Salvationists reside.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing two dedicated community leaders and friends to many throughout Alabama. I know their family, their children, and their many friends join me in praising their accomplishments and extending thanks for their outstanding service over the years on behalf of the First District and the state of Alabama.

Majors David and Pat Waite will surely enjoy the well deserved time they now have to spend with family and loved ones. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MISSISSIPPI SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 667

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I submit into the RECORD Concurrent Resolution No. 667 adopted by the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives. The resolution urges the United States Congress to accept the decision of the United States Air Force concerning the award of the jet tanker contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation and EADS North America. Each day we delay approving this contract, we prevent the Air Force men and women from receiving the equipment necessary to ensure our national security. I encourage my colleagues to review this resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 667

Whereas, after an extensive evaluation process, the United States Air Force awarded a \$35 Billion jet tanker contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation and EADS North America; and

Whereas, these vital military aircraft will be built at Mobile Brookley Field Industrial Complex, creating more than 2,000 new jobs for workers in the States of Mississippi and Alabama; and

Whereas, efforts to overturn the decision of the United States Air Force concerning its detailed analysis are irresponsible and a true threat to our national security; it is imperative that elected officials support the decision makers whom they entrust with these important determinations; and

Whereas, Mississippi workers are ready, able and eager to begin constructing the aircraft that the United States Air Force has rated as superior in five-out-of-five categories, and the interest of national defense should clearly rule over regional political posturing: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of Mississippi, the House of Representatives concurring therein, That the United States Congress is respectfully encouraged to accept the decision of the United States Air Force concerning the awarding of the jet tanker contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation and EADS North America, refrain from turning this vital national security matter into a political free-for-all, and allow the competent and capable workers of Mississippi to immediately begin work on this critical contract. Be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to members of Mississippi's congressional dele-

gation and to the Secretary of Defense and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FILL SUSPENSION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act, H.R. 6022, which suspends the acquisition of oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for the rest of this year, unless the average price of oil over a 90-day period drops below \$75 a barrel. Earlier the Senate adopted an identical amendment, by a vote of 97–1.

As Memorial Day approaches and the summer driving season begins, there is little relief in sight for Americans from high prices at the pump, as gasoline prices quickly climb close to \$4 a gallon and diesel fuel prices reach over \$4 a gallon. Suspending acquisitions to the SPR, presently at 96 percent capacity, will free up 70,000 barrels of oil per day for supply and could reduce gasoline prices by 2–5 cents per gallon. Last month I was pleased to join Republican colleagues in calling on House leadership to temporarily suspend acquisitions to the SPR, and while such action will only free up a fraction of world oil supplies, I am pleased to lend my support to this first step in easing the financial pinch for families and truck drivers across the country.

The laws of supply and demand are real and high gas prices are one aspect of the bigger picture, and the fact remains that oil dependence affects our economy, security, and environment. In my view technology will take us to the next level in clean and alternative transportation fuels, and this requires robust investments now. Congress should address the cost-crunch today and act to ensure we have a comprehensive, clean, and secure energy policy for tomorrow.

In addition to the temporary suspension of acquisitions to the SPR, I believe we should also consider increasing refining capacity in the United States, without compromising environmental permitting, as well as ask transparency from oil producing countries to help verify available oil reserves and production capacity. Individual consumers too can take action by driving 55 miles per hour or less and proper tire inflation, which will slow gas consumption and save money. Looking forward, long-term extensions for renewable energy and energy efficiency tax credits are paramount; I have repeatedly supported efforts in the House to extend these important incentives and believe solutions to the present logjam over oil and gas subsidies are long overdue. I recently joined colleagues in the House as a supporter of the Clean Energy Tax Stimulus Act of 2008, which would provide for the limited continuation of clean energy production incentives and incentives to improve energy efficiency that would otherwise lapse under current tax law legislation.

There will be ongoing discussions about energy policies in Congress, and proposals will

range from domestic drilling to lowering demand. As demand for world oil continues to climb, supply concerns are real. I support looking for alternatives before drilling in some of our most sensitive coastal areas, however Congress did open an additional 8.3 million acres in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, "Lease 181," to new oil and gas leases in December 2006, and I read with interest the oil discovery in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico that was just announced by Chevron.

Last year, Congress worked in a bipartisan manner to reduce our demand for oil by increasing the fuel economy standards for cars and trucks. It is my great hope that members on both sides of the aisle will continue to work on policies to reduce consumption, encourage innovative technology development, and promote energy self-sufficiency. I am pleased to support this temporary suspension to the SPR and hope it begins a meaningful dialogue about energy policy in this country, which is so important not only for national security but also for tackling global warming.

THE PASSING OF CONGRESSWOMAN BONO MACK'S FATHER
CLAY WESTERFIELD WHITAKER,
M.D.

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness we share the news of the passing of Clay Westerfield Whitaker, M.D., father of Representative MARY BONO MACK, on May 13th after a long and valiant battle with prostate cancer. It was an honor to have known Dr. Whitaker and it is a privilege to serve with Congresswoman BONO MACK who is a testament and tribute to her father. From the talks I had with Dr. Whitaker, I know how proud he was of her great work.

Born in Greenville, Kentucky on April 17, 1924, Whitaker was the son of Eva Nell Hunt Whitaker and Levi Whitaker. The youngest of six siblings, all of whom preceded him in death, he was only five years old when his father, a physician, died at the age of thirty. Whitaker's mother, now a single parent, worked hard to make ends meet during the years of the Great Depression. When speaking of those years, Whitaker often said, "We didn't think we were poor; we just didn't have any money." His mother understood the importance of a good education, and along with his sisters, he was admitted to Berea College in Kentucky. At Berea, he met the love of his life, Karen Lee Taylor. Together, they enjoyed music and an active campus life until his college education was interrupted when he entered the Army Air Corps during WWII. Assigned to the 8th Air Force, 95th Bomb Group, 334th Squadron stationed in Horham, England, Whitaker served as a B–17 waist gunner and flew 19 missions over Germany. After victory had been achieved, Whitaker wrote to his college sweetheart asking for her hand in marriage when he returned to Berea College.

Upon returning home, Whitaker was greeted at the train station by his sister and future bride, Karen. As he stepped off the train, his

sister informed him that his wedding was scheduled for the very next day, June 30, 1944. So began a lifetime of mutual devotion. Whitaker completed his college education at Berea with a degree in chemistry and applied to Western Reserve medical school where he earned his M.D. in otolaryngology (ear, nose & throat) and then set-up his medical practice in Cleveland, Ohio. While living in Cleveland, he and Karen had four children, Stephen, David, Katherine and MARY.

In 1963, Whitaker moved the family west to Los Angeles where he accepted a position as co-chair of the ENT department at L.A. County—USC Medical Center. As professor of ENT, he remained at USC until 1983 when he moved to Asheville, North Carolina, to chair the ENT department at the VA hospital and establish an ENT program at that facility for Duke University. He held that position until his retirement from the practice of medicine.

Whitaker loved the outdoors, especially hiking, camping and the Land Rovers that transported him to the backcountry. He loved classical music, the arts, sciences, literature, cars and vintage war planes. But most of all, he loved his family. Known by family and friends as a man of immense generosity and compassion, he was a remarkably selfless and humble individual. His quick wit and keen sense of humor enlivened many family and social gatherings, and he was deeply respected in the communities in which he lived.

Preceded in death by his beloved Karen, Whitaker is survived by his four children, Stephen Whitaker and his wife, Teri, of Bruceville, Indiana; David Whitaker and his wife, Carol, of Sealy, Texas; Katherine Whitaker of Asheville, North Carolina; and Congresswoman MARY BONO MACK of Palm Springs, California, and her husband, Congressman CONNIE MACK. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, Laura Kenney and her husband, Doug; Daniel and Christopher Whitaker, Cameron and Ian Whitaker, Teresa Shuford, and Chesare and Chianna Bono, and one great grandson, Thomas Kenney.

Our deepest condolences go out to our colleague MARY BONO MACK and the entire Whitaker family.

**INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED
STATES SHOULD USE ALL AP-
PROPRIATE MEASURES TO END
COMMERCIAL WHALING**

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States, through the International Whaling Commission, IWC, should use all appropriate measures to end commercial whaling in all of its existing or potential forms and seek to strengthen whale conservation and management measures.

Whales cannot be humanely killed, according to Dr. Peter Singer, a professor of bioethics at Princeton University. As Dr. Singer said, causing suffering to innocent beings, without an extremely weighty reason for doing so, is wrong. Beyond subsistence needs, it is

difficult to think of a reason weighty enough to cause such suffering to one of God's most magnificent creatures.

As such, the purpose of my resolution is to send a strong message to the Administration as it prepares for the June 2008 meeting of the International Whaling Commission, IWC, in Santiago. The message is simple: now is not the time to capitulate to calls to weaken or undermine the IWC ban on commercial whaling. The American people care deeply about protecting whales, and the U.S. should continue to be an international leader in whale conservation.

Established in 1946, the IWC's initial focus was the allocation of whaling quotas among member countries. Unfortunately, whalers from many countries routinely exceeded these quotas, and whale populations plummeted. In response, the IWC instituted a moratorium on the commercial killing of whales in 1986.

Despite this moratorium, significant whaling has continued. Norway officially objected to the moratorium and resumed commercial whaling in 1993. Japan and Iceland have been using a provision in the Convention—which allows countries to issue themselves permits for “scientific whaling”—to kill whales under the guise of science, and later sell the meat commercially. More than 11,000 whales have been reportedly killed in lethal scientific whaling programs since the adoption of the commercial whaling moratorium, even though the IWC Scientific Committee has repeatedly stated that such lethal takes are not necessary for scientific research.

At the same time, Japan is calling for the IWC to once again sanction commercial whaling in the form of “coastal” whaling, “community” whaling, or some other iteration of small-scale commercial whaling that will effectively eviscerate the moratorium.

In contrast, the anti-whaling nations want the IWC to look to the future—a future in which whales are protected and their nonlethal use is promoted. With its 75-plus members almost evenly divided between anti- and pro-whaling, it is imperative that the U.S. make clear its strong stand against the resumption of any form of commercial whaling, including community whaling, and that we press for the end of “scientific” whaling that is anything but scientific.

Therefore, the resolution I am introducing today calls on the U.S. delegation to the IWC to remain firmly opposed to commercial whaling in all its forms. The resolution urges the U.S. to not only initiate or support efforts to oppose the unnecessary lethal taking of whales for scientific purposes, but also seek to end the sale of meat and blubber from whales killed for scientific research in order to remove this perverse incentive. The resolution also calls on the U.S. to reject proposals that would weaken or lift the moratorium on commercial whaling by creating a new category of whaling deceptively called coastal or community whaling.

It is more critical than ever that the U.S. remain firmly opposed to any proposals to resume even a limited level of commercial whaling and to maintain its leadership role in shaping global whale conservation policies through the IWC. The administration must not undo more than 20 years of whale conservation and capitulate to Japan's demand for a sanctioned resumption of coastal commercial whaling. Instead, the U.S. should again demonstrate

leadership in whale conservation and promote nonlethal uses of whales—such as whale watching—a far more benign and profitable venture. Worldwide, tourists spend an estimated \$1.5 billion on whale watching each year.

Whales constitute a vital component of the world's marine ecosystems and are some of the largest and most intelligent mammals on Earth. Conserving them requires us to uphold strong international agreements and maintain an unwavering commitment to protecting these species from killing for commercial gain. I thank my colleagues for cosponsoring this resolution, and I urge all Members to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to explain both my leave of absence from the House of Representatives on May 8, 2008, and how I intended to vote with respect to the legislation that was before the House on that day. I was unable to be in Washington on May 8 because I was serving as a pallbearer at the funeral of Thomas Boggs—a close friend of mine for over 30 years and an outstanding citizen of Memphis, Tennessee—at the request of his widow.

While Thomas made a name for himself by rising from humble roots to become a highly successful restaurateur in Memphis, his mark on the city goes much deeper. He used his success in business to contribute generously, both in terms of his money and his time, to causes that have enriched Memphis. His contributions to the community have benefited all Memphians, and his death leaves Memphis in grief. As a reflection of how much esteem the Memphis community held him in, the Memphis Commercial-Appeal ran a front-page, above-the-fold article concerning his death, an almost unprecedented tribute.

I agonized over whether I should remain in Washington to vote on the bills that the House was to consider on the day of Thomas' funeral. I take my responsibilities as a Member of Congress very seriously, particularly with respect to voting on legislation. In the end, I decided that I needed to join the rest of the Memphis community as our dear friend was eulogized and honored for one last time.

Had I been able to be in Washington on May 8, I would have voted for final passage of H.R. 5818, the “Neighborhood Stabilization Act of 2008,” as amended. This legislation requires the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide loans and grants to States, metropolitan cities, and urban counties to carry out housing stimulus activities. Such activities include the purchase of or financing the purchase of foreclosed homes for resale as housing, rental of such homes, or rehabilitation of such homes. These measures are designed to ensure that neighborhoods do not deteriorate as a result of a high foreclosure rate caused by predatory lending. In short, this bill will help to mitigate some of the negative effects of the foreclosure crisis.

I also would have voted in favor of agreeing to the Senate amendment, with House amendments, to H.R. 3221, the “Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008.” This bill helps homeowners

who are in danger of losing their homes to re-finance into lower-cost, government-insured mortgages they can afford to repay. It also expands affordable mortgage opportunities for families who might otherwise turn to subprime mortgages to buy a home. The bill, as amended by the House, will also expand tax benefits for homeowners and first-time home buyers. This bill, when combined with H.R. 5818, presents a comprehensive package for addressing the predatory lending and foreclosure crises that our country faces.

In addition to the housing-related bills, I also would have voted in favor of H.R. 4279, the "Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008" (PRO-IP Act.) I am an original cosponsor of this bill and spoke in favor of its passage when it was being debated on the House floor a few days before the vote. As I noted then, this legislation makes important improvements to intellectual property law to help protect against counterfeiting and piracy, including enhanced penalties for intellectual property crimes, additional resources for law enforcement efforts at every level of government, and the creation of a new organizational framework at the Federal level to better combat international piracy and counterfeiting. This bill enjoys widespread support, and everyone from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the Teamsters supports it. I am glad that it passed with strong bipartisan support.

Finally, I note that I would have voted against the Flake and Cantor Motions to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2419, the "Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act."

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG, AMERICAN ARTIST

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's greatest art pioneers of the 20th century, Robert Rauschenberg, who passed away on Monday at the age of 82 on Captiva Island. He led an extraordinary life and his unique approach to abstract expressionism helped to pave the way for a new generation of contemporary artists.

Mr. Rauschenberg was born in 1925 in Port Arthur, Texas. His love for art grew while he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and had a chance to visit an art museum at the age of 18. When he returned home from the war, he used his GI Bill benefits to pay his tuition at art school.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Mr. Rauschenberg's portfolio was varied and diverse. He rejected abstract expressionism and searched for a new method of painting. Incorporating his enthusiasm for popular culture, he turned to pop art, and used materials traditionally outside of the mainstream. He was also a sculptor and choreographer.

Mr. Rauschenberg moved to Captiva Island in the 1970s. Perhaps the thing that Mr. Rauschenberg will most be remembered for in southwest Florida was his contributions to the art community in our region. He generously donated to the gallery on the Edison College campus in Fort Myers, giving them the rights to reproduce his prints and posters and thus

allowing the institution to support itself financially.

In addition, Mr. Rauschenberg enjoyed sharing his love of art to art students and the general public and was often on hand at gallery openings to support local artists. He was also a strong supporter of Arts for ACT, a charity that supports a shelter for abused women.

Although Mr. Rauschenberg is no longer with us on earth, his memory will live on in the paintings he loved so much, the art community in southwest Florida he fostered and supported, and the people he met and inspired every day.

HONORING MR. IRV ZAKHEIM

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Irv Zakheim, recipient of the Eastern Washington University 2008 Entrepreneur of the Year award. I am pleased to join with the EWU Center for Entrepreneurial Activities in honoring Mr. Zakheim as a key business leader, locally and globally.

Built on humble beginnings, Mr. Zakheim has grown his company, Zak! Designs, from a small business to a major global competitor with nine offices worldwide. Today, anyone with children would recognize the products that first brought national attention to Zak! Designs.

Zak! Designs is a company that creates dinnerware, drinkware and lunch kits featuring popular animated characters. They have recently added travelware for on-the-go lifestyles, additional products at the forefront of tabletop trends, and customized programs that bring fresh looks to retailers.

In addition to his business pursuits, Mr. Zakheim plays an integral role in the community. He is the founder of the Zak! Celebrity Open, an annual golfing fundraiser that has brought in more than \$1.5 million for charitable organizations in its eight years of existence. Last year alone, the Zak! Celebrity Open raised \$450,000 for the Rypien Foundation and YWCA's Child and Youth Services.

Madam Speaker, Irv Zakheim embodies the entrepreneurial and giving spirit that makes this country so great. I commend Mr. Zakheim for his important contribution to the business community and invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on receiving this award.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1134, legislation to support the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. I would like to thank my colleagues and co-chairs of the Mental Health Caucus, Representative NAPOLITANO and Representative MURPHY, for their continued dedication to educating Congress on this most important issue.

It is critical for Congress to recognize May as Mental Health Month because we have the leadership role and the responsibility to transform mental health care in America. We are working to change the access, the delivery system and the outcomes of care. But we are also working to bring down the barriers to action that exist because of stigma, ignorance and misunderstanding of mental illness and substance use.

Congress must work to increase public awareness and understanding of mental illness and substance use by funding research in genetics and functional medicine and developing and translating this research into effective treatments. We have the evidence to show how the brain suffers from the effects of mental illness and substance use. We know also that people who suffer the long term effects of mental illness die at an earlier age, suffer from untreated diabetes, hypertension and other chronic disease, because it is so difficult to get the care they need to protect their health and functioning.

Several years ago, our Nation did not talk about cancer because of our fears, our poor understanding and our dread of losing our loved ones. Now mental illness is emerging from that same silence and neglect. As President Kennedy said, "This neglect must end, if our Nation is to live up to its own standards of compassion and dignity."

For all our citizens bearing the burdens of mental illness and substance use, and their families, especially their children, we are working to improve the awareness, understanding and effective treatment of mental illness. We owe it to our veterans to fully treat the damaging psychological wounds of war as well as their physical injuries. We owe it to their children to return them well and sound to be the parents and spouses they deserve to be.

This leadership is a shared responsibility with Federal agencies, State and local governments, employers, businesses, churches, law enforcement, schools, sports, the entertainment industry, and every part of our community. I thank my colleagues for bringing this resolution to the floor and join them in their support recognizing May as Mental Health Month.

CALLING ATTENTION TO THIS COUNTRY'S ORGAN DONATION CRISIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note—with alarm—that organ donations are not keeping pace with need in this country, resulting in the deaths of 18 patients per day as they wait idly by for lifelines. The shortage proves particularly detrimental to minority patients, who together make up a staggering 50 percent of people on the transplant waiting list. Because of a paucity of minority donors, and the bruising effect of disparate and unequal access to health care, minority patients find themselves most vulnerable to a deepening crisis that should rally all Americans to the cause.

The health of our citizens should remain foremost on our minds. As the leading power

and example in the world, this country should strive to carve out a premier health care system that works for everyone, not just the politically connected, not just the moneyed. For every American, we have safeguarded the promise of life, liberty, and happiness—and we ought to make good on that. We can have none of the three without adequate health care. This should be our national pride: to continually develop and improve upon our remarkable successes in medicine, to shape and mold a health care system that is the envy of the world.

An April 22 New York CARIB News piece, titled "Organ Donation A Crisis Among Minorities" and written by Dr. Jennifer Wider, denotes these concerns and offers solutions.

ORGAN DONATION A CRISIS AMONG MINORITIES

The number of people needing organ transplants is rising faster than the number of donors, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Roughly 77 people receive organ transplants per day in the United States, but 18 people die each day waiting for transplants that will never happen due to the shortage of available organs.

Organ transplantation involves putting organs or tissues from one person into the body of another person, whose organs or tissues have been damaged or are no longer working.

"The recipient has to be immunologically matched to the donor well enough that the organ won't be immediately rejected," says Mark Schnitzler, Ph.D., assistant professor of health administration at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "Blood type match has to be acceptable and the recipient can't be already sensitized to the donor's tissue types."

The need for transplants is particularly high among minorities, especially among African-Americans. Of the 83,000 people on the national transplant waiting list, approximately fifty percent are minorities, according to United Network for Organ Sharing.

According to a recent study in the American Journal for Respiratory Critical Care Medicine, David J. Lederer, M.D., and colleagues at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York found that, "After listing for lung transplantation, African-American patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were less likely to undergo transplantation and more likely to die or be removed from the list compared with Caucasian patients." Unequal access to care is among the likely reasons Lederer and his team cited for this disparity.

Organ donation recipients are more likely to match up to others of their own race and ethnicity. "Both blood type and tissue types have racial and ethnic patterns," Schnitzler said. That is why it is important to look into ways to increase minority organ donations.

The need for more donor organs among minority women is especially great because minority women suffer disproportionately from certain diseases of the kidney, heart, lung, pancreas, and liver that can lead to organ failure.

"Minority women are well represented as a share of the total population that donates organs, but their need for transplants is greater," said Sherry Marts, Ph.D., vice president of scientific affairs for the Society for Women's Health Research, a Washington, D.C., based advocacy organization. "Because of a shortage of appropriate donor organs, minority women often have to wait longer for doctors to find a match. Sadly, many die waiting. With more donated organs from minority women, finding a match will be quicker, waiting times will be cut and more lives will be saved."

Further complicating matters are studies that show the biological sex of the organ donor and recipient can affect transplant success. At least one study has found that the combinations least likely to result in organ rejection are female recipient-male donor, followed by male recipient-male donor.

"These findings have not yet affected clinical practice because of the organ shortage," Marts said. "Doctors can't afford to wait for the most optimal donor-recipient combination where the sex of the patients is concerned. They have to make the best decisions possible with the limited organs available. As organ preservation techniques improve, however, this could become a factor."

Health promotion and disease prevention programs are needed to shed light on the diseases and negative lifestyle choices that may increase the need for organ transplants. Diseases such as diabetes and hypertension and behaviors including alcohol and substance abuse, poor nutrition and lack of exercise are all risk factors for diseases that can cause permanent or irreversible damage to organs and tissues.

The Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program is working to increase awareness for minority organ donation. This program also provides information that is vital to good health and can delay or prevent the need for organ transplants. Here are some of the program's key tips:

Have your blood pressure checked at least twice per year after age 12; Diabetics should have blood pressure checked regularly and follow diet and exercise instructions; Avoid alcoholic beverages to help prevent liver disease; Avoid use of illegal drugs such as marijuana, heroin and cocaine which cause liver disease and kidney failure; Avoid smoking cigarettes which can lead to heart and lung disease; Avoid foods high in cholesterol and saturated fats such as fried foods which can clog the arteries; Establish a regular exercise routine which should be performed at least three times per week; Visit your doctor at least once per year for a check-up.

April is National Donate Life Month. Information about organ and tissue donation is available on a special Web site from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.organdonor.gov/>.

COMMEMORATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Asian Pacific American—APA—Heritage Month. I am pleased to celebrate this important event.

May 2008 marks 30 years since President Jimmy Carter signed a joint Congressional resolution declaring the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. In 1992, the commemoration was extended to the full month of May.

While it's an appropriate time to note the achievements of Asian Pacific Americans, APAs, we cannot overlook the needs of the community, including a fair and sensible immigration policy. I chair the Immigration Task Force of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus's, CAPAC, and I will continue to fight for the needs of family within the immigration debate.

The challenge has become much more difficult in the last year because the presidential

primary campaigns have poisoned the discussion, focusing all their attention on undocumented immigrants from Mexico and calls for higher fences and tougher enforcement. Completely ignored is the fact that immigration issues facing Asian and Pacific Americans are far different. And those issues have been completely drowned out by the shrill demonization of illegal immigrants.

One of the major issues for the Asian Pacific American community is family reunification: allowing relatives of legal permanent residents, other than spouses and minor children, to immigrate legally and join their families. It can take the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as long as 23 years to even consider an application for a family member from the Philippines.

The extended family is a foundation in many of our cultures, and it provides real benefits to the greater society as well. Families often pool resources to educate children or purchase homes and establish roots in their communities. We often see extended family networks starting businesses, providing economic development and jobs.

It is important that we move the debate on immigration past the bumper sticker solutions that have dominated the public dialog and work together to advocate for the needs of family. I believe we must find a just, practical and humane response to the 12 million undocumented immigrants living in the shadows of our society. But, we cannot forget that families that are separated tear at the very fabric of what America means. I urge my colleagues to learn more about this issue during APA Heritage Month and throughout the year, and work for comprehensive and human immigration reform for the APA community.

HONORING BARBARA KORNER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Barbara Korner throughout her life, interwoven with the strands of wife, mother, and teacher are patterns that appear and reappear: Her devotion and love for the Sinai Free Synagogue makes Kehillah Kedosha (sacred congregation) a way of life in all that she does.

She reaches out to all, teaching the youngest, Beresheet Bunch, to welcoming the eldest at services; to honoring the most revered as chair of the Congregant of the Year dinner dance. She initiates new relationships and strengthens existing ones in the Women's Spirituality Circle, as well as giving herself to fundraising projects such as Honey for Rosh Hashanah.

Whether serving food during a concert, shopping for bagels for an adult education brunch, or selecting beautiful Judaica for the shop, she brings friendship and caring to the synagogue community.

She has a long history of volunteerism at Sinai Free Synagogue, and the Free Synagogue before that. She has been honored with the Congregant of the Year Award, having served as Religious School Board co-chair, Hospitality Chair for the successful congregational dinners, and co-chair to the Jewish Festival.

She was born in New York City to Ruth and Murray Zucker, and graduated from Hunter College. She taught at P.S. 100 for her entire career and met her husband Ira there. They married in 1970 and have three children, Matthew, Shelby and Ari, and three grandchildren Daniel, Maia and Gabriel.

Barbara Korner is a vital part of the leadership at the synagogue and the community at large, with her enthusiasm, her artistic flair, and her strong sense of tikkun olam in everything she does. She has made Sinai Free Synagogue into a community, and helped to strengthen the Jewish community in Mt. Vernon.

THANKING MR. FRANK JONES FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on June 30, 2008, I rise to thank Mr. Frank Jones for his 32 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Frank graduated from Brook High School in Calvert County, MD and moved to DC in 1962. He started working at the Washington Post selling subscriptions. He wanted to learn a trade and decided on printing. Frank went to work at A&E Blueprinters learning all facets of the trade from 1963–1969.

Looking for a change in profession, he obtained a job at Seibert Decorators in Washington, DC in 1969. It was there that he began to learn and hone his skills as an accomplished upholsterer. Frank came to the House upholstery shop in February 1977 and worked there until his retirement.

Over the next 15 years he artfully upholstered many pieces of House furniture. Among his list of accomplishments is the upholstery shop's most valued piece of furniture, the Turkish Chair. He has trained numerous employees, teaching the techniques, touch, and feel needed to upholster this chair. He redesigned and tufted the "Sam Rayburn Chair" for the then Clerk of the House, Donald Anderson. Over the years he has worked on the Lincoln Catafalque several times, preparing it for ceremonies for Presidents lying-in-state at the Capitol. For the last 17 years he has served as Foreman of the House Upholstery Shop, passing on his wealth of knowledge and talent in the trade.

On a more personal note, Frank has always gone out of his way to ensure that all of his customers are completely satisfied. Frank has operated his own upholstery business for almost 40 years and the quality of his work and dedication to his craft are well known in the DC–MD–VA area. In addition, Frank is part owner and driver of Millennium Tours bus service. He has always been interested in team sports and played with many of his co-workers on the House Rockers softball team from the late 1980s to the 1990s in the Congressional Softball League. He now enjoys bowling and travels around the country participating in tournaments. Frank is, and always has been, very involved with his church, singing with the choir, performing solos, and participating in services.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I personally congratulate Frank on his retirement and thank him for all he has done for this institution. I wish Frank the best and good luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING LAWTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today in recognition of the Lawton Fire Department of Lawton, Michigan on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Since 1858, Lawton firefighters have bravely served their fellow village residents, working endlessly to promote the health, safety, and well-being of their community. In addition to providing protection and emergency relief services, the department has actively invested itself in the Lawton community, positively impacting those lives they seek to protect.

I am proud and fortunate to represent the citizens of Southwest Michigan because we believe in continually striving to improve our quality of life. Because of the fine work of courageous men and women at the Lawton Fire Department, Michigan is truly a better place to live.

Again, it is my honor to stand today in recognition of the Lawton Fire Department for its 150 years of outstanding and selfless service to the residents of Lawton, Michigan.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI STATEHOOD

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary of statehood.

On May 14th, 1948, David Ben-Gurion announced to the world that the State of Israel had been created. This declaration was made in accordance with the United Nations Resolution 181 which was passed in November 1947. The creation of two states was proposed, one Jewish and one Palestinian. The new State of Israel established an opportunity for Ben-Gurion and other Zionists to realize a return to the "promised land."

Although the new state would be tested immediately following its creation, its citizens, supporters and ideals would hold. Even at the conclusion of the first Arab-Israeli War, a constant barrage of state and non-state actors would seek to destroy this government. Sixty years later this battle continues, as the entire world copes with the challenging yet necessary task of respecting the beliefs of others and protecting the natural rights of all mankind.

The "land of milk and honey" is significant not only for its ability to offer refuge to a people who have been persecuted for the past 2 millennia, but to also demonstrate the global communities' determination to right wrongs and to help their fellow man. Today there are

close to 7 million individuals who inhabit Israel. Although the vast majority of those persons happen to be Jewish, there are also people who follow the Christian and Arab faiths. While there happens to be conflict currently between the Jewish and Muslim populations, the possibility of Israelis and Palestinians co-existing in peace is still feasible.

As a Member of Congress, I have been blessed with the opportunity to visit Israel, to talk with those that live there and to see the success that it has become. There exists within the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio and across the United States, a strong community of individuals who are committed to supporting our close ally. I am proud to consider myself a fellow advocate and look forward to supporting the State of Israel in the future.

May the people and the government of Israel continue to enjoy their statehood and be blessed with peace.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S ROLE IN FILLING THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE AS IT RELATES TO H.R. 6022, THE STRATEGIC PETRO- LEUM RESERVE FILL SUSPEN- SION AND CONSUMER PROTEC- TION ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 6022, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act by a bipartisan vote of 385–25.

This important piece of legislation is now awaiting action by the Senate, which passed a similar bill 97–1. Hopefully this bill will be on the President's desk in the immediate future, and he will sign it into law so that American consumers can experience some relief immediately.

The purpose of the bill is to temporarily halt filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) while oil is at recordbreaking highs. It makes absolutely no sense for the Government to be buying oil at roughly \$125 a barrel and pumping it underground. While this is a modest measure to address gasoline prices, every little bit helps, as the President noted over 2 years ago. Considering that American taxpayers are paying \$9 million a day to continue filling the reserve, I think halting the purchases is more than just a "little bit."

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve was created in 1975 to respond to the first Arab oil embargo of the 1970s. Originally, the Department of Energy was provided with appropriations to purchase oil to fill the SPR, but in 1999 the situation changed, and it was announced that oil taken as a "royalty-in-kind" from production in the Gulf of Mexico would be used instead. Through the end of the last fiscal year, the Department of the Interior has provided roughly 140 million barrels of royalty-in-kind oil to fill the SPR, valued at approximately \$4.6 billion. Today, the SPR is almost 97 percent full, yet royalty-in-kind oil is still flowing into it at a rate of 70,000 barrels, worth, as stated above, nearly \$9 million per day.

As in any government contractual undertaking, the act of suspending shipments of oil to the SPR cannot occur without some adjustments in schedules, and it will take some time as well. For example, the Department of Energy will have to suspend its contracts with those entities that are delivering the oil to the SPR, and at any given moment a huge quantity of oil is already in transit.

My interest, however, as chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, which has primary jurisdiction over the Department of the Interior and the program that has been transferring royalty-in-kind oil to the Department of Energy, is to ensure that proper guidance and oversight is provided to that Department of the Interior.

To that end, we understand the language of Section 2(c) of H.R. 6022 to provide the necessary authority to the Secretary to terminate existing SPR-related contracts and dispose of any remaining RIK oil accordingly.

Under the terms of Federal oil and gas leases, the Federal Government is entitled to a percentage of the proceeds derived from the sale of oil and gas produced on Federal lands. The specific percentage is set by the terms of the lease, and typically ranges from 12.5 and 18.75 percent. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to take that percentage either in the form of a cash payment or in the form of oil or gas itself. This latter method is called royalty-in-kind, RIK, and when the Government chooses to take its royalty-in-kind, it then typically sells—using private marketing companies—that oil and gas on the open market, directly competing with private firms. Currently, some of that RIK oil is not sold, but instead is directed towards filling the SPR.

Under the terms of the RIK-SPR program, the Secretary of the Interior enters into long-term transportation contracts with energy companies to deliver royalty oil from the Gulf of Mexico to an onshore market center, where title is transferred to the Department of Energy. These contracts are typically for 6-month terms, and on May 1, the Interior Department issued those contracts for the period of July 1 to December 31 of this year. These contracts have a contingency clause to convert them from purely transportation to an outright sale contracts, but there is a 45-day notification requirement before such a conversion can occur.

In order to get the oil from the onshore market center to the SPR, the Department of Energy enters into exchange contracts with energy companies. Under the terms of the exchange contract, the contractor takes title of the oil at the market center, and then delivers other oil that meets SPR specifications at one of the SPR sites. Consequently, the RIK oil does not directly flow into the SPR.

The language of H.R. 6022 directs the Secretary of the Interior to “suspend acquisition of petroleum for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve through the royalty-in-kind program.” This means that the Department must terminate its transportation contracts and suspend delivery of the RIK oil to the SPR. In order to ensure that the Department of the Interior does not end up leaving RIK oil “in the pipeline” so to speak, H.R. 6022 intends that the Secretary convert the transportation contracts into sales contracts as soon as practicable and in accordance with the terms of the transportation contracts.

This is the obvious intention of the bill, as Congress would certainly not want to strand

tens of thousands of barrels of oil a day in pipelines across America. Consequently, we envision that the Department of Energy will continue to accept the oil at the market centers for as long as the Department of the Interior is contractually obligated to have it delivered, which we anticipate will not exceed 45 days from enactment of H.R. 6022.

Congressional intent in this matter is to require the Departments of the Interior and Energy to end the process of filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as rapidly as possible. The Department of the Interior should immediately, upon enactment of this legislation, provide the necessary notice to their contractors that RIK delivery contracts will be converted to sale contracts within 45 days.

INTRODUCTION BY CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that takes a modest but essential step toward solving our Nation's emergency communications crisis.

For over 6 years, I have worked passionately to prevent a tragic repetition of the communications problems that led to the deaths of hundreds of first responders on 9/11—namely, the lack of an interoperable network that would have allowed police and firefighters in the twin towers to communicate with each other. This issue has been one of my highest priorities as a policymaker.

In recent years, Congress has appropriated grant funds for first responder communications and freed 24 MHz of new spectrum for public safety use. But our efforts have fallen short. Police, fire, and emergency medical service agencies across the country still rely on a balkanized patchwork of aging radio systems that hampers interagency coordination and puts lives at risk.

This year is our best chance, and maybe our last chance for years, to change our emergency communications landscape with a single, interoperable network for all of our Nation's brave first responders.

Next February, the DTV transition will free valuable broadcast spectrum in the 700 MHz band. Last year, the Federal Communications Commission designed an innovative auction for a block of this spectrum. The winner of the so-called “D” block would be required to build a nationwide, wireless broadband network to serve both commercial and public safety users.

This sensible, market-based approach recognized that public safety agencies are cut off from the advances of the 21st century, plagued by the lack of a national communications platform and chronically short of funding. The FCC envisioned a public-private partnership to provide state-of-the-art technology to public safety users and fund a multi-billion dollar public safety network with private capital.

Unfortunately, the D block failed to attract a winning bid. In the aftermath of that failure, we have learned much about the flaws of the first auction and what we must do to get it right the

second time. The FCC is now laying the groundwork for a new auction that I fervently hope will lead to a successful shared network.

Congress should be involved in this process and ensure that the Public Safety Broadband Licensee, the not-for-profit entity representing public safety in this partnership, is an independent and effective voice for first responders.

The legislation I introduce today will start a conversation about how to achieve that goal. It authorizes \$4 million—a modest, interim funding stream—to help the FCC establish this new interoperable network and allows the FCC to grant part of these funds to the Public Safety Broadband Licensee to cover its administrative and operational costs.

My legislation includes requirements to ensure transparency and promote vigorous oversight by both Congress and the FCC. It prohibits the Public Safety Broadband Licensee from accepting third-party funds after receiving FCC grants and from using government funding to repay outstanding debts. The bill also mandates strict reporting requirements to the FCC and Congress.

On 9/11, hundreds of firefighters and police officers died at the World Trade Center, in part because of their hopelessly impaired communications systems. Sadly, nearly 7 years later, public safety agencies still struggle with the exact same problem.

The D block auction is our best chance to solve the interoperability crisis that will plague our response to the next natural disaster or terrorist attack. Congress should act now to ensure its success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT THOMAS SAVAGE RICE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Sergeant Thomas Savage Rice upon his retirement from the United States Army Reserve.

Sergeant Rice's commitment to his country and community spans several decades. With almost 40 years of service, Sergeant Rice has dutifully devoted his time to assignments across the Nation. Ft. Eustis, Virginia, Ft. Lewis, Washington, and Ft. McNair, Washington DC, are just a few of the many locations that Sergeant Rice has nobly served. He has ably worked in countless positions and various specialties, resulting in seven promotions over a 25 year span including his current rank of Sergeant.

Throughout his career with the United States Army and United States Army Reserve, Sergeant Rice has received numerous accolades and awards including the Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Saudi Arabian Kuwait Liberation Medal; all of which attest to his hard work and perseverance. In addition to recognition gained through his military career, Sergeant Rice lives a highly exemplary civilian life. He is a restaurant owner and serves on the board of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association. He was also the 2004 recipient of Florida's Good Neighbor Award from the National Restaurant Association.

The duty Sergeant Rice has performed, as well as his outstanding tenure in the military, is a reflection of the dedication and valor he possesses. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Sergeant Thomas Savage Rice for his enduring allegiance to our great Nation and the State of Florida.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN GAZA MUST BE IMPROVED

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, since late January 2008, the 1.5 million people in Gaza have been enduring an Israeli-imposed blockade. The blockade effectively restricts the entry of food, clean water, fuel, and medical supplies. The lack of basic goods has severely deteriorated Gaza's health, social fabric, and economy.

The World Bank reports that since Hamas ousted Fatah from Gaza last June, 90 percent of businesses have shut down, costing workers more than 100,000 jobs. Due to the closure of Gaza's borders and its inability to import raw materials, farmers and businesses are unable to produce and export their goods leaving nearly half a million people without an income.

I encourage the Bush Administration to do everything it possibly can to improve the economic livelihood of Gaza's population so that they do not become the tragic victims of Israel's national security policies. In particular, the Bush Administration should consider:

Expanding the list of food items permissible for import into Gaza. Presently only twelve basic food items are allowed entry into Gaza and this does not include salt or cattle;

Allowing entry of seed, seedlings, fertilizers, and chemicals necessary for farmers to continue growing basic goods for humanitarian needs and consumption;

Permitting the entry of raw materials intended for use by private sector Gaza-based factories. More than 800 factories have been shut down in Gaza since the blockade, exacerbating its unemployment conditions;

Extending, on an urgent basis, the reach of recently launched West Bank initiatives of the small loans and mortgage funding in order to provide micro-lending to small businesses and to stimulate peaceful economic activities;

Encouraging, and allowing entry of, European and other foreign technical staff to enter Gaza and engage in assisting the private sector as well as non-governmental organizations in Gaza; and

Permitting entry of construction materials into Gaza necessary for the completion of \$300 million dollars worth of projects which have been suspended due to material shortages. These projects fall under the umbrella of international organizations including the United Nations Relief Works Agency, the United Nations Development Program, and the World Bank. The necessary materials can be earmarked for specific projects and their implementation can be supervised by these international organizations thereby avoiding improper usage.

I urge the U.S. Administration to help end the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and ensure

the health, safety, and security for Palestinians and Israelis.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1134, supporting the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month.

Mental Health Month helps to educate our communities that mental health is a fundamental and humane priority for America's well-being.

The quiet suffering of the afflicted, the familial pain shared by their loved ones, and the societal stigma associated with mental illness all make mental health very important to all Americans.

We must realize the toll mental illness has taken on the young. One in five children has a mental disorder. Furthermore, suicide is the third leading cause of death among teenagers, and every one in four Latina teens report seriously contemplating suicide, a rate higher than any other demographic.

Mental illness continues to be a silent illness for our veterans and soldiers returning from serving overseas. More than one in five of our troops suffer from major depression or post traumatic stress disorder. No longer should these conditions be swept under the rug, these are difficult situations that a lot of military families are facing every day.

Today senior citizens compose 12 percent of the population, but account for 16 percent of all suicides, higher than for any other age group. Our seniors are the foundation of this country and their mental health needs are underserved.

These are alarming and concerning statistics. Yet, many of us still don't know the extent of the mental health problems America is suffering from. Untreated mental illness costs the American economy over \$150 billion annually.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution and educate our communities that mental health is a fundamental and humane priority for America.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FILL SUSPENSION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6022, at a time when oil prices are reaching record highs, suspending the Federal Government's oil purchases is a win for consumers and for the Federal budget.

Regular gas now costs over \$3.73 a gallon, compared to only \$1.47 in 2001 before the President began implementing his disastrous policies. Families and businesses on eastern Long Island and across the country are calling on Congress to take action to lower these

soaring gas prices and reduce our Nation's unsustainable addiction to oil.

In response, I am pleased to cosponsor this bill, which takes a good, first step. Economists and government agencies agree that suspending the filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve would directly impact gas prices this summer by making more oil available. In contrast, it would take at least a decade for consumers to benefit from Republican plans to hand over America's wilderness areas to big oil.

Moreover, it is not fiscally prudent for the Federal Government to continue to pay such high premiums to stockpile oil when we currently have sufficient reserves.

In the 108th and 109th Congresses, as Bush administration policies drove the price of gas to record highs, I introduced similar legislation to halt the filling of the Petroleum Reserve.

Today the need for such action is even greater, Mr. Speaker. Therefore I call on my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 6022.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1134, a bill which supports the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. I support this legislation because I believe that Congress should seek to raise awareness about mental health conditions and the importance of mental wellness for all.

The plight of families suffering from mental illness is immense and can often be linked to an absence of adequate social services available coupled with the unwarranted stigma surrounding mental health issues. Due to the unwarranted social stigma associated with mental illness and a systemic failure to provide health care coverage, over two-thirds of the people who suffer from mental illness go untreated according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

According to the National Institute on Mental Health, 20 percent of our children and 26.2 percent of American adults suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. As the leading cause of disability in the U.S., many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in two Americans has a diagnosable mental disorder each year.

Within minority communities, there is an increased need for mental health services. For example, according to the Centers for Disease Control, African Americans are more likely to experience a mental disorder and less likely to seek treatment than Caucasian Americans. When African Americans do seek treatment, they are more likely to use the emergency room for mental health care, and they are also more likely than whites to receive inpatient care.

In 2004, the House Government Reform Committee estimated \$100 million of taxpayers' money was spent on detention of

youth awaiting community mental health services. I am alarmed by this number and therefore support H. Res. 1134 because it recognizes the dual need for preventative mental and physical healthcare.

Last year, I introduced H. Con. Res. 86 to express the sense of Congress that an appropriate month should be recognized as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. Bebe Moore Campbell was a premier journalist who, before her untimely death, authored a children's book titled, *Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry*, winner of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Outstanding Literature Award. Through this story of how a little girl copes with being reared by her mentally ill mother, Moore Campbell was able to raise public awareness on mental health issues and heighten the consciousness of this topic within minority communities.

We must strive to accomplish the goals and ideals associated with Mental Health Month in order to alleviate the obstacles and burdens many people and families who are affected by mental illness face on a daily basis. Again, I would like to affirm my support of H. Res. 1134.

ON THE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, this legislation represents a fair, common sense solution that will allow homeowners to stay in their homes, and help stabilize the housing market. I would like to extend my gratitude to Chairman FRANK for his hard work on this legislation, which will be of critical importance in Michigan, where there are thousands of homeowners in danger of foreclosure. I am especially pleased that this bill includes legislation which I cosponsored that would provide up to \$300 billion in new loan guarantees to help refinance at-risk borrowers into viable mortgages. In addition, this legislation includes important provisions that expand homeownership opportunities for veterans, seniors, and first-time homebuyers.

This legislation will help both homeowners and lenders, but this is no bailout. Lenders who participate will have to take a loss, but their losses under this program will be far less than if these properties go into foreclosure. Borrowers who realize a profit when they sell their home must return some of that profit to the government. The United States provided similar leadership during the New Deal using a program run by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC). Much like the HOLC, this program stands to save millions of homes from foreclosure at a minimum cost to the taxpayers.

I would especially like to thank Chairman FRANK for his assistance in securing passage of a provision important to the residents of Parkview Apartments in Ypsilanti, Michigan. I have been working for 4 years now to try to facilitate the transfer of this property to Ypsilanti Housing Authority. Chairman FRANK and the staff of the Financial Services Committee

have been instrumental in these efforts, which are designed to clarify Congressional intent regarding certain properties that entered the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) property disposition process prior to the enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) but where the initial proposed disposition was delayed.

While I believe that Parkview is already subject to the grandfathering provision of the DRA, this provision clarifies that such properties should be considered "pre-DRA" properties, and that HUD should proceed with its prior disposition contracts as to those properties. This provision is one of many that was included in legislation that passed the House last year, and is now being included in this bill as part of a comprehensive housing package. This legislation is of the utmost importance to the Congress, and it is my hope and expectation that it will soon be enacted into law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following vote I missed on Tuesday, May 13, 2008. If present, I would have voted "yes" during rollcall No. 306 on H. Res. 1181, Expressing condolences and sympathy to the people of Burma for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by Cyclone Nargis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional District in Texas on Tuesday, May 13, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 306, 307, and 308.

ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Israel on the 60th anniversary of its founding—May 14, 1948. Over the past 60 years, the United States and Israel have developed a close friendship based on our common democratic values and security interests. I strongly believe that it is in our Nation's best interest to further strengthen our relations with Israel and create a peaceful Middle East.

There are over 3,500 Holocaust survivors living in the Greater Philadelphia region, and many are in my district. These men and women serve as a constant reminder to me to the history and birth of this nation. I have been to Israel numerous times in the Navy, and I re-

cently met with Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Salai Mender, and Commander-in-Chief for the Israeli Navy, Eli Marom, to discuss how our countries' relationship can be developed further.

Our conversation touched on our nations' economic relationship: the United States is Israel's top trading partners and American companies have significant investments in Israel's economy. I believe Congress has vested interest in continuing this economic relationship.

Furthermore, we discussed the state of Israeli's military as well as foreign affairs, from Iraq and the Global War on Terrorism to the close relationship between Israel and the United States and their militaries. I firmly believe our economies would mutually benefit including the potential of a joint venture between the United States and Israel, such as the development of Littoral Combat Ships.

Joint ventures would result in great mutual benefit by providing not only greater interoperability between American and Israeli militaries—while also driving down costs for procurement by working together—but would also greatly enhance the already strong relationship between these two countries.

More than our common bond of trade and security, however, our people share the common belief of Theodore Herzl, who once said "if you will it, it is no dream." A safe and secure Israel is necessary not only for the people of Israel, but for the future of the democratic world. I stand here to affirm my commitment to enhancing the relationship between our nations and to congratulate Israel on its 60th anniversary.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to join my colleagues in observing the third annual Jewish American Heritage Month, JAHM, which takes place over the entire month of May.

As you know, Jewish American Heritage Month allows us to annually recognize the historic contributions of the Jewish community to our Nation. The Jewish community has a rich history in the growth of America as we know it today, dating back nearly four centuries to the founding of our country, and it is essential that Congress along with local and State officials work together to promote greater awareness about the contributions of this multifaceted group of people to the fabric of America.

While American Jews make up only a small percentage of our Nation's population, their contributions have been significant in a number of arenas including technology, literature, entertainment, politics, and medicine, as well as many other parts of our society and culture. In celebration of these contributions, communities across the Nation—including many in South Florida, which I am privileged to represent—have scheduled creative programming and discussion to honor these great Jewish Americans who have helped build this Nation.

The programming, which will take places across the country, will also provide an important platform for the discussion of Judaism

and Jewish culture in areas of our Nation where Americans have had little or no interaction with members of the Jewish community. Given that anti-Semitism unfortunately remains prevalent throughout the country, it is more important than ever that we work to break down barriers and address ignorance and intolerance, which too often leads to anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and hate.

I am proud to stand with the American Jewish Community during the month of May to highlight past achievements and the ongoing contributions of a community that cares deeply about the well-being and future of this Nation. I urge all of my colleagues as well as the American people to join me in recognizing the myriad of contributions of the American Jewish community throughout this month and to take concrete steps to observe JAHM.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR 2008 HONOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. Each year, the Department of the Interior recognizes individuals who have contributed immensely to their departments with the Honor Awards Ceremony.

There are several types of Honor Awards that can be awarded to an employee: the Distinguished Service Award, the Safety Award, and the Valor Award. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals that have gone above and beyond expectations and contributed to the Department. The Safety Award recognizes safety and health employees who performed outstanding service and played an important role in the Department. The Valor Award is given to individuals that demonstrated courage when they faced dangerous situations.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2008 Honor Awards. Receiving the Distinguished Service Award: Ms. Barbara L. Chadwick; Mr. Robert Labelle; Mr. David Bama; Mr. Bruce Sheaffer; and The Safety Award: Ms. Louis Rowe.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Department of Interior. Their efforts, made on behalf of the American public, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN CONYERS, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support for H. Res. 1134, sup-

porting the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. This legislation applauds the hard work of practitioners and national and community organizations in promoting mental health awareness, and supports improving the overall quality of life for those with mental illness. H. Res. 1134 also supports the findings of the President's Commission on Mental Health that the nation's failure to prioritize mental health is a national tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, mental health is no less important than physical health. In fact, as science is proving, mental health and physical health are intertwined in complex ways that are only beginning to be understood. The relationship between depression and heart disease is just one example of the inherent symbiosis of psychiatric and somatic illnesses.

Just as the heart is the organ upon which heart disease preys, the brain is the organ plagued by diseases of the mind. Likewise, death as a result of suicide is no less tragic than death secondary to a heart attack. Those suffering from severe psychiatric illness should not be held to a lesser standard of care than those suffering from physical illnesses.

Ensuring access to appropriate services is central to improving the quality of life for those with mental illness. The issue of mental health insurance parity, in my opinion, is a civil rights issue. Inequity of coverage with regard to mental health and substance abuse treatment benefits is tantamount to discrimination against the mentally ill, and it reinforces the strategy of insurance companies to deny care rather than provide care.

The mental health community scored a victory for its patients earlier this year when the House voted to pass H.R. 1424, the "Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007."

It has taken courage on the part of Congressmen like my colleague PATRICK KENNEDY to stand up to special interests and "do the right thing" when it comes to ending discrimination against the mentally ill and standing up to health insurance companies. There is still work to be done before a mental health insurance parity bill is signed into law. Hopefully, the bill will soon be reconciled into a form which will benefit psychiatric patients and end discrimination against the mentally ill.

Mr. Speaker, let us applaud the tireless work and unending determination of those fighting to improve the lives of the mentally ill. Let us also be reminded that there is much work to be done before the stigma associated with mental illness is ended, and the lives of those suffering from mental illness are valued as much as those suffering from other medical illnesses.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify my vote on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for the Conference Report on S. Con. Res. 70, the Budget Resolution.

In the 109th Congress, the Florida delegation, on a bi-partisan basis, worked hard to protect Florida's environmental treasures. The

bill we achieved passage of, Public Law 109-432 (HR 6111), provided Florida with 125 mile protection off our coast. Furthermore, the legislation codified the ban on drilling within the "military mission line"—approximately 234 miles from Tampa—to provide even more protection for Florida's west coast through the year 2022. I strongly support the current ban. I also believe other states should have the right to search for energy if they wish to do so.

LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I sent the following letter to the President on May 13, 2008:

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington,
DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: I strongly urge you to reconsider Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's trip to the Czech Republic in early June to sign the European Ground-Based Mid-Course Defense, GMD, agreement. You have urged that the United States Ballistic Missile Defense System must include a European theatre to defend the country against an Iranian deployment of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, ICBM. I remain unconvinced that the arguments for the European GMD are valid.

The claim that the GMD will prevent a missile attack on the United States stands in contravention of the facts. Iran would have to overcome the many technical difficulties associated with development and deployment of long-range ballistic missiles. The longest range missile that Iran has tested is 1,600 kilometers. The straight line distance from Tehran to Washington, D.C. is 10,186 kilometers. The United States has never deployed a missile with this range. Our longest range missile, the MX or Peacekeeper, has a range of approximately 8,000 kilometers. Only five countries have deployed any long-range ballistic missiles to date.

In fact, it is conceivable that the U.S. will have its own technical difficulties to overcome before such a system can be proven viable. Two stage interceptors, proposed to be used in the European GMD, have never before been flight tested and therefore have no proven track record of viability. The Test and Evaluation department of the Pentagon cautions that many more tests under realistic conditions would be needed before conceding our capability to shoot down an offensive missile.

The citizens of the Czech Republic and Poland clearly reject the proposed agreement. Public opinion polls in the Czech Republic reflect strong opposition to the placement of the radar in their country. A poll conducted in the summer of 2007 shows that three-quarters of the population is calling for a public referendum on the proposed agreement. Opinion polls show that a consistent majority of the Polish public is opposed to the agreement and argues that they feel no particular threat from Iran. However, they indicated that the installment of interceptors would strain diplomatic relations with Russia. Similar concerns have been voiced about the prospect of Czech participation in the installment of the radar.

The GMD proposal has by some accounts exacerbated U.S.-Russia relations. The U.S. has shared information but not meaningfully

cooperated with Russia in these negotiations. Because the Czech Republic and Poland fall within the boundaries of former Russian influence, U.S. actions with regard to the GMD have been perceived by Russia as an intrusion. There can be no doubt that U.S. efforts to impose the GMD are perceived as an obstruction to the diplomatic ties between our nations.

Assertions made by the Administration that the U.S. ICBM system could be used to protect the European Union reflect a flawed policy. If the Administration is concerned about the threat of ICBM attack on Europe it should cooperate with the international community to address these concerns instead of pursuing even more unilateral international policing. NATO is a better forum in which to address these concerns.

The timing of Secretary Rice's trip to sign the agreement is also questionable. The Conference Report for the FY 2008 Department of Defense, DOD, authorization requires an independent assessment of the two stage interceptors as well as an independent analysis to assess alternatives to the European GMD. The assessment will not be released until after Secretary Rice's trip. If the assessment finds the GMD and the interceptors to be as unnecessary, unviable, and counterproductive to diplomacy as I have outlined in this letter, it will make it difficult to turn back. Additionally, the December 2007 National Intelligence Estimate on Iran states that Tehran halted its nuclear program in 2003 and as such, reaffirms the lack of an impending nuclear threat to the United States from Iran. This further confirms that there is no urgent need to sign a formal agreement with the Czech Republic in June.

The viability, necessity and prudence of the fulfillment of a formal agreement with both the Czech Republic and Poland on the European GMD are called into question. Furthermore, this \$4 billion project will be solely funded by U.S. taxpayers. I urge you to cancel the upcoming trip by Secretary Rice to the Czech Republic and instead focus on the more pressing diplomatic efforts that are needed to protect U.S. security through our relationships with the international community.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, congratulations to the people of Israel and their forebearers on the 60th anniversary of the reestablishment of the State of Israel. Born out of genocide and conflict, the modern State of Israel has developed into a free, democratic and prosperous country. An unfailing ally of the United States, Israel is a beacon of freedom and religious tolerance in the Middle East. I am honored to strongly support the modern State of Israel and reaffirm the bonds of close friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

The narrow strip of land that now constitutes modern Israel has been important to the Jewish people for four millennia, and the first Jewish kingdom was established in this region over 3,000 years ago. Although forced to emigrate from the historical Jewish homeland over

the centuries, the Jewish people have continuously yearned for and often returned to their home. History shows that waves of Jewish people returned to the Holy Land at the very least during the 12th, 15th, 16th, and 18th centuries. Large-scale migration back to Israel started in the late 1800s and continues through today.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly formally approved the partitioning of the British Mandate of Palestine and the creation of a Jewish State. On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the modern State of Israel. Under the leadership of President Harry S. Truman, the United States was the first nation to recognize the State of Israel and establish full diplomatic relations.

Over the course of three wars, countless military operations, constant terrorism, and unjustified diplomatic and economic boycotts, Israel's existence has been continuously threatened. But, through it all, the Jewish people have remained vigilant and continue to build a strong and vibrant state.

Today, Israel has one of the leading economies in the Middle East, while maintaining a strong commitment to human rights, freedom of speech, press and religion, and democratic values. With open and free elections, and an independent judiciary, Israel remains the most democratic country in the region.

Since the creation of the modern State of Israel, the hallmark of the relationship with the United States has been a strong friendship. Israel has been a trusted military ally and partner for six decades. The close relationship between our governments and continued military assistance are essential for promoting democracy and peace in the Middle East and throughout the world.

In times of humanitarian need or global crisis, the United States can always count on Israel to stand close and provide assistance. From contributing search-and-rescue teams following the 1998 bombings of the American Embassies in east Africa, to providing humanitarian aid following the 2005 devastation of the Gulf Coast from a series of hurricanes, the State of Israel has always been a stalwart friend to the American people. The United States must remain committed to supporting the State of Israel.

It is important to honor this historic milestone. The United States Congress and the American people look forward to continued growth and success of the State of Israel. I ask that all my colleagues honor this important anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ERNEST S. KINNEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Ernest S. Kinney of Fresno, California who recently passed away at 63 years of age. He leaves behind a loving wife, Marion, two children and several grandchildren.

Mr. Kinney was born and raised in Bishop, California. In 1962 he went to Fresno State to play football, and in 1965 he served as stu-

dent body president and President of the 16th State College Student President's Association. Upon graduating from Fresno State he joined the U.S. Marine Corp in 1968 and served as a Captain until 1971.

After his military career Mr. Kinney attended the San Joaquin College of Law while working as a social worker during the day. He graduated as part of the school's second graduating class in 1975 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007.

After only two and a half short years Ernest established his own private practice in 1978 and formed the Ernest S. Kinney Law Corporation. During more than three decades of practicing law he gained the respect of the entire community. He was tough and dedicated and admired by his colleagues, and he will be remembered mostly for his colorful character and his skills in the courtroom.

Ernest enjoyed the simple things in life like going to football and basketball games with friends, going to the beach with his grandchildren and lunches with his friends. He had passion and he loved people.

It goes without saying that Mr. Ernest Kinney was one of kind. His commitment to family and clients will forever live in the lives of the people he touched. His passion for justice under the law will be remembered by all who knew him. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man who will never be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAVING ENERGY THROUGH PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2008

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, together with Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member JOHN L. MICA and Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman PETER A. DEFAZIO, I am pleased to introduce H.R. 6052, the "Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008."

We are introducing this bill to promote energy savings through increased public transportation use in the United States. Recently, public transportation has experienced a renaissance in American cities and towns. In 2007, Americans took over 10.3 billion trips on public transportation, the highest level in 50 years. Public transportation use is up 32 percent since 1995, a figure that is more than double the growth rate of the population and is substantially over the growth rate for the vehicle miles traveled on our Nation's highways for that same period. All around the country, voters continue to approve state and local ballot initiatives to support public transportation, even when it means local taxes will be raised or continued.

As the price of gas approaches \$4 a gallon, even more commuters are choosing to ride the train or the bus to work rather than drive alone in their cars. Transit systems in metropolitan areas are reporting increases in ridership of 5, 10, and even 15 percent over last year's figures. Some of the biggest increases in ridership are occurring in many areas in the South and West where new bus and light rail lines have been built in the last few years.

Meeting this impressive new demand for public transportation services is no small task for our transit agencies. While recordbreaking numbers of commuters are riding transit, the cost of fuel and power for public transportation has sharply increased, and the slowing economy means less local money is available to increase or even maintain transit services. This bill provides much needed support to public transportation agencies and increases incentives for commuters to choose transit options, thereby reducing their transportation-related energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil.

A primary objective of H.R. 6052, the "Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008," is to reduce the United States dependence on foreign oil by encouraging more people to use public transportation. According to a recent study, if Americans used public transit at the same rate as Europeans—for roughly 10 percent of their daily travel needs—the United States could reduce its dependence on imported oil by more than 40 percent, nearly equal to the 550 million barrels of crude oil that we import from Saudi Arabia each year.

To increase public transportation use across the United States, H.R. 6052, the "Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008," authorizes \$1.7 billion in funding over 2 years for transit agencies nationwide that are temporarily reducing transit fares or expanding transit services to meet the needs of the growing number of transit commuters. The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, established to develop a national transportation vision to address surface transportation needs for the next 50 years, calls for a total annual investment of between \$26 billion to \$46 billion for public transportation. We consider this bill an important first step in increasing our investment in public transit infrastructure.

H.R. 6052 also increases the Federal share for clean fuel and alternative fuel transit bus, ferry or locomotive-related equipment or facilities, thereby assisting transit agencies in reducing transportation-related emissions. In fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the increased Federal share for these activities is 100 percent of the net capital cost of the project. Public transportation use is estimated to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 37 million metric tons annually. When a solo commuter switches from a single occupancy vehicle to a transit commute, this single mode shift can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 pounds per day—more than 4,800 pounds in a year. This provision will allow American commuters to further decrease their greenhouse gas emissions.

H.R. 6052 also extends the Federal transit pass benefits program to require that all Federal agencies offer transit passes to Federal employees throughout the United States. Current law requires that all Federal agencies within the National Capital Region implement a transit pass fringe benefits program and offer employees transit passes. This requirement originated from Executive Order 13150, signed by President Clinton on April 21, 2000. The Executive Order also required the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Energy to implement a nationwide 3-year pilot transit pass benefit program for all qualified Federal employees of those agencies.

Data from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority covering the first 3 years of the National Capital Region transit pass program show that more than 15,500 automobiles were eliminated from roads in the Washington, DC, area as a result of Federal employees shifting their travel mode away from single occupancy vehicle, SOV, use to public transportation use for commuting to work. The Department of Transportation estimated that emissions and energy savings from this mode shift included the reduction of more than 8 million gallons of gasoline, nearly 40,000 tons of carbon dioxide, and over 675 tons of carbon monoxide for each of the 3 years that they studied. DOT also studied the results of the nationwide pilot program and found that, within the three covered agencies, 11 percent of the participants shifted their travel mode away from SOV use to public transportation use for commuting to work, again producing marked energy and emissions savings, reduced congestion and cleaner air.

The Department of Transportation has determined that both the National Capital Region transit benefits program and the nationwide pilot program produce marked energy and emissions savings, congestion reductions, and cleaner air, and recommends that the transit pass benefits program be extended to Federal employees nationwide. This provision will implement the Department's recommendation by providing more Federal employees the incentives to choose transit options, thereby reducing their transportation-related energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil.

H.R. 6052 also creates a pilot program to allow the amount expended by private providers of public transportation by vanpool for the acquisition of vans to be used as the non-Federal share for matching Federal transit funds in five communities. Under current law, only local public funds may be used as local match; this pilot program would allow private funds to be used in limited circumstances.

The provision will require the private providers of vanpool services to use revenues they receive in providing public transportation, in excess of their operating costs, for the purpose of acquiring vans, excluding any amounts that the providers may have received in Federal, State, or local government assistance for such acquisition. The Department of Transportation will implement and oversee the vanpool pilot projects, and will report back to Congress on the costs, benefits, and efficiencies of the vanpool projects.

Finally, H.R. 6052, the "Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008," increases the Federal share for additional parking facilities at end-of-line fixed guideway stations. This provision increases the total number of transit commuters who will have access to those facilities.

Public transportation use in all of its forms—bus, rail, vanpool, ferry, streetcar, and subway ridership to name a few—saves fuel, reduces emissions, and saves money. The direct petroleum savings attributable to current public transportation use in the United States is 1.4 billion gallons per year. When the secondary effects of transit availability on travel are also taken into account, the equivalent of 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline is saved annually—more than 11 million gallons of gasoline per day.

Increasing public transportation use by providing incentives for commuters to choose transit options, thereby reducing their transpor-

tation-related energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil, as well as decreasing their greenhouse gas emissions, is a priority of this Congress.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

HONORING WILLIAM KEARNEY OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Kearney, who is being honored by the Lakeside Wellness Foundation for his years of service to the citizens of Lake County. Mr. Kearney is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to Sutter Lakeside Hospital as well as the community at large.

Bill is deservedly known as "Mr. Community." Having previously served in the US Army in both Korea and Vietnam, he has since served on the Board of Sutter Lakeside since 1999 and has been President of the Board since 2005. He has given countless hours to the hospital over the years and always goes the extra mile, be it helping with physician recruitment or serving as a community ambassador. He also serves as the emcee of the annual Lake County Stars awards, lending his considerable charm and wit to what is always a memorable evening.

Mr. Kearney is not only a hero in the Lake County non-profit and health care communities, but a business leader as well. He owns two successful pharmacies and hosts a radio show discussing health issues. Bill is equally generous with his time and abilities in the business community. He has served two terms as President of the Chamber of Commerce and is affiliated with all local service organizations. He also leads the co-op for small pharmacies in Northern California.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Bill Kearney for his many years of service. He has been a model citizen and leader in Lake County, his presence has enriched the lives of everyone in our community and I am honored to call him a friend. I join his wife Dana, four children and twelve grandchildren in wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ISRAEL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, sixty years ago today, as the world was still recovering from the horrors of the Second World War and the devastation of the Holocaust, the modern state of Israel was founded.

In the sixty years since its founding, Israel has overcome numerous security threats while serving as a model democracy in the Middle East and a beacon of freedom in the region. Importantly, Israel has also been one of America's strongest and most steadfast allies.

In fact, the strong relationship between our two countries dates back to Israel's very founding.

Within eleven minutes of Israel's declaration of Independence, President Harry Truman formally recognized the new nation and established America as Israel's first and closest friend.

Today, the strong partnership between our two countries continues through commerce, educational links, familial ties, and joint efforts to stabilize and bring peace to the Middle East.

So as we mark this important date and pay tribute to Israel's founding, let us also recommit to a continued friendship and partnership with Israel and a renewed dedication to securing a lasting peace in the Middle East.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS BY OUR FRIEND AND ALLY ISRAEL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of Israel, I am proud that the United States and Israel have built a strong, unique, and special relationship.

It took the United States, under President Harry Truman's leadership, only 11 minutes after Israel had been declared a state to officially welcome her into the community of nations. After, President Truman said, "I had faith in Israel before it was established, I have faith in it now. I believe it has a glorious future before it—not just another sovereign nation, but as an embodiment of the great ideals of our civilization."

The creation of the State of Israel was a bold step in May of 1948. The first prime minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion, once said that "courage is a special kind of knowledge: the knowledge of how to fear what ought to be feared and how not to fear what ought not to be feared." It is from such courage that the State of Israel was formed and from which Israel continues to maintain its vibrant and strong democracy today. We can all learn examples from the struggles that the citizens have endured and the grief they have overcome to remain a democratic outpost in the Middle East.

The achievements of the Israeli people and their government over the past 60 years are remarkable. For instance, when it comes to education, well over half of Israelis aged 20-24 are enrolled in one of the country's institutions of post-secondary or higher education. Healthcare is guaranteed by law—for all Israelis—from infancy to old age. As for agriculture, the country produces almost 70 percent of its food requirements—from land that was once not remotely capable of sustaining crops or livestock. Finally, despite the growing demand for expansion of farmland and industrial centers, the Israeli government has set aside land for 150 nature reserves and 65 national parks throughout the country, with sev-

eral hundred additional sites in planning. While these achievements are each remarkable in their own right, they are only a sample of what Israel has accomplished in a mere 60 years.

As a lifelong supporter of our most important ally in the Middle East, I have had the pleasure of traveling to Israel. These visits have only reinforced my strong conviction that Israel, like all states in the world, has the right to respond in self-defense to protect her sovereignty and citizens.

As chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations Special Intelligence Oversight Panel, I know that Israel has been a loyal and cooperative partner in combating terrorism. Our country has a lot to learn from Israel and her experiences with acts of terrorism.

As Israel continues to face threats from her neighbors, America must continue to stand with her. Additionally, a strong American relationship with Israel is essential for regional stability. We have a responsibility to help Israel stand up to and prevent terrorist attacks. Last year, I supported \$2.4 billion in military assistance for Israel, and will continue to support additional U.S. foreign assistance for Israel.

I also strongly believe that the United States must remain actively engaged in ensuring a peaceful settlement of the current conflict between the two parties.

It is essential that the United States become more involved diplomatically to help diffuse conflicts like the one in Lebanon two summers ago and help move the parties to a broader settlement that will defang the militant and terrorist factions and will result in a peaceful Middle East and a viable two states.

Much work remains unfinished. We are all troubled by the daily rocket attacks by Hamas from Gaza against innocent civilians in Israel. Israel clearly has a right to defend herself against these deadly attacks. This has been yet another unique year for Israel, full of challenges that were admirably met.

I am pleased to join with the Jewish community of New Jersey and all Americans in celebrating 60 years of Israel's existence as a beacon of democracy and hope in the Middle East. I look forward to future anniversaries, and to the day when Israel and her citizens can live in peace without fear.

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS RECEIPT CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 4008, the Credit and Debit Card Receipt Clarification Act. This is common sense legislation that will free hundreds of businesses, from large corporations to "mom & pop" operations from legal damages that could total hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars for their harmless failure to redact expiration dates from their credit and debit card receipts.

This bill only provides relief to companies that otherwise complied with the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act, also known as FACTA, it preserves the right for a customer to sue if real harm or fraud has occurred and it does not eliminate a business's obligation to properly truncate the account number or to redact the expiration date from its receipts.

I think it is important to point out that we are talking about businesses that did everything they thought they were required to do to comply with the new standards set forth by FACTA. These are businesses that purchased new machines, installed new hardware and incurred the expense of producing what they thought or were told was a compliant credit or debit card receipt. These are businesses that when they were told that they had to truncate the account numbers of credit and debit cards, they did so.

One of my constituents, Steven Hanson, is such a business owner. He is the founder and President of B.R. Guest Restaurants. After FACTA was enacted into law, Steve tells me that he and his company spent more than \$300,000 switching out credit card terminals in his restaurant to comply with the new law, only to find out that each and every new receipt he processed could result in a \$100 to \$1,000 fine. Steve tells me that B.R. Guest has a pending lawsuit against his company that could result in a \$100 million liability. This is not a liability that B.R. Guest or many businesses could absorb. Without this relief, B.R. Guest and hundreds of other businesses could be forced to close up shop.

In addition to B.R. Guest Restaurants, Zabars, Fairway Markets, Scholastic Books, Barneys/Jones Apparel Group, Estee Lauder, The Knot.com, Bally's North America, Buy Buy Baby and Ross Stores are among the New York Businesses named in similar lawsuits.

It is also important to note that while the lawsuits filed against these companies are seeking damages totaling in the hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars, none of the 500 lawsuits that have been filed, make any allegation of consumer harm. Identity theft prevention experts have testified that the truncation of the credit card numbers accomplishes the intent of the statute because a potential fraudster would not be able to perpetrate account fraud without having the entire correct credit card number. The real harm to the consumer would come if Congress does not act. Consumers will be forced to pay higher prices to help these businesses absorb the cost of these lawsuits or will be faced with fewer options as businesses are forced out of business because they can not afford their cost.

This legislation enjoys wide bipartisan support and has been endorsed by The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Restaurant Association, Retail Industry Leaders Association, The National Association of Theater Owners, The International Franchise Association, The National Council of Chain Restaurants and the Food Marketing Institute.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, this is common sense legislation and I urge its adoption.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 20

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Steven C. Preston, of Illinois, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine energy and related economic effects of global climate change legislation.

SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine plant closings, focusing on workers rights and the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) (Public Law 100-379) Act's 20th anniversary.

SD-430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine global internet freedom, focusing on corporate responsibility and the rule of law.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine agreement on Extradition between the United States of America and the European Union (EU), signed on June 25, 2003 at Washington, together with twenty-two bilateral instruments which subsequently were signed between the United States and each European Union Member State in order to implement the Agreement with the EU. The Agreement includes an explanatory note which is an integral part of the Agreement (Treaty Doc. 109-14), extradition Treaty between the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Latvia, signed on December 7, 2005, at Riga (Treaty Doc. 109-15), extradition Treaty between the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Estonia, signed on February 8, 2006, at Tallinn (Treaty Doc. 109-16), extradition Treaty between the United States of America and the Government of Malta, signed on May 18, 2006, at Valletta, that includes an exchange of letters that is an integral part of the treaty (Treaty Doc. 109-17), extradition Treaty between the United States of Amer-

ica and Romania (the "Extradition Treaty" or the "Treaty") and the Protocol to the Treaty between the United States of America and Romania on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (the "Protocol"), both signed at Bucharest on September 10, 2007 (Treaty Doc. 110-11), extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria (the "Extradition Treaty" or the "Treaty") and the Agreement on Certain Aspects of Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria (the "MLA Agreement"), both signed at Sofia on September 19, 2007 (Treaty Doc. 110-12), treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Stockholm on December 17, 2001 (Treaty Doc. 107-12), mutual Legal Assistance between the United States of America and the European Union (EU), signed on June 25, 2003, at Washington, together with 25 bilateral instruments that subsequently were signed between the United States and each European Union Member State in order to implement the Agreement with the EU, and an explanatory note that is an integral part of the Agreement (Treaty Doc. 109-13), and treaty between the United States of America and Malaysia on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed on July 28, 2006, at Kuala Lumpur (Treaty Doc. 109-22).

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine financial speculation in commodity markets, focusing on institutional investors and hedge funds contributing to food and energy price inflation.

SD-342

11 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine protecting the constitutional right to vote for all Americans.

SD-226

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:45 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) challenge, focusing on securing one of the worlds most dangerous areas.

SD-419

MAY 21

Time to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Paul A. Schneider, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

S-216, Capitol

9:15 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation, done at Washington and London on June 21 and 26, 2007 (Treaty Doc. 110-07), and treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation, done at Sydney, September 5, 2007 (Treaty Doc. 110-10).

SD-419

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending health care legislation.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the skyrocketing price of oil.

SD-226

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General David H. Petraeus, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States Central Command, and Lieutenant General Raymond T. Odierno, USA, for appointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, Multi-National Force-Iraq.

SD-106

10:30 a.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine improving Medicare for the most vulnerable, focusing on senior citizens at risk.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine closing the justice gap, focusing on providing civil legal assistance to low-income Americans.

SD-226

JUNE 3

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the acquisition of major weapons systems by the Department of Defense.

SD-106

JUNE 4

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine veterans disability compensation, focusing on undue delay in claims processing.

SR-418

JUNE 5

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine off-highway vehicle management on public lands.

SD-366

	JUNE 26	POSTPONEMENTS	pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58).	
9:30 a.m.				
Veterans' Affairs		MAY 20		SD-366
Business meeting to markup pending calendar business.		10 a.m.		
	SR-418	Energy and Natural Resources		
		To hold hearings to examine the Territorial Energy Assessment as updated		